BRITISH
FIELD
SPORTS

British

IELD SPORTS;

EMBRACING

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS

IN

SHOOTING—HUNTING—COURSING—RACING —COCKING—FISHING, &c.

With Observations on the

BREAKING AND TRAINING OF DOGS AND HORSES;

ALSO

THE MANAGEMENT OF FOWLING PIECES,

AND ALL OTHER

SPORTING IMPLEMENTS.

BY

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London:

PRINTED FOR SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES,

PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1818.

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TO THE READER.

IN the ensuing Pages, the uninformed Reader will find the best Instructions in the Writer's power to furnish, on the various practice of our modern Field Sports, either from his own personal observation, and there are few Sports which have not, at some period or other of his life, been familiar to him, or on the authority of other Writers, whose judgment and experience, his own insight into the subject, enables him to warrant. A repetition of all the *minutiæ* of Instruction, will not be expected, within the prescribed limits; nor has it been in all cases, attempted—the general object is to lay a solid and clear foundation of the *essentials*, whence may be expected to spring, a fair superstructure of rational and profitable practice. Even the Veteran Sportsman, it is humbly hoped, may glean a few useful hints, or be reminded of some few, perhaps not unimportant particulars, which in the hurry of business, or the eager pursuit of pleasure, he may have overlooked. To him especially, is dedicated, a System of Sporting Ethics, equally consistent, it is presumed, with *fairness* and humanity, and the dictates of a rational expedience. The present Writer has long been labouring

to root out, so far as his exertions could extend, that horrible propension in the human breast, a sense of sport and delight at witnessing the tortures of brute animals; and he calls as loudly as his weak powers will admit, for Coadjutors in so just a cause; and still hopes that, BRITISH SPORTS may be purified from a stain, at once so disgusting and infamous.

On that delicate topic, the GAME LAWS, he cries mercy of those, who in the height of their superiority, look down with a contemptuous rigour, upon all who are hardy enough to question the sanctity and infallibility of the *letter*, in the case of such dearly cherished and favourite Prorogatives. He intends not the slightest disrespect to any, and hopes the auspicious time is dawning upon us, when a man may publish his honest opinions, without the discouraging dread of giving offence: in the mean time, he presumes to remind all, that it is the inalienable right of every MAN, to question and examine those laws, by which he is bound, and to oppose them on just and rational grounds. In this lies the distinction between the *Man* and the *Slave*: and it is simply necessary to change the *Slave* into a *Man*, and *Slavery shall no longer exist.* This by way of apology for opposing the Game Laws, to which may be added that, such opposition is beneficial to the defenders of those Laws; since it is ever an advantage to listen to the arguments and pretensions of opponents. Confute them if you can—but let it be by the virtue of

reason and even-handed justice, not by the force of pains and penalties.

It is incumbent upon the Author to return thanks to a respectable Gentleman of the Profession, who furnished the relative Abstracts from the Game Laws, the substance of which he has so satisfactorily condensed, that the Sportsman will obtain all the needful information, in a very small compass.

With the utmost satisfaction, the Author acknowledges the receipt of a letter from *Captain Bagnold*, of *Knightsbridge*, conveying the pleasing information of the *Rev. Mr. Colton's* recovery from his unfortunate accident (page 216) with the use of his limb. The accident, it seems, was occasioned, by Mr. Colton inadvertently trusting his Gun to the care of a Boy, who amused himself by cocking both Locks, in which state it was returned, and a briar getting into the Guard, both Pieces were at once discharged into Mr. Colton's left arm.

The chief of the Press Errors, it is hoped, will be found as under—

Page 38, for coun*try*-house, read count*ing*-house.
108, for dist*inct*, read dis*trict*.
208, for Coats, read Coats.
399, sixth line, read *the* old song.
432, number of the page to be corrected.
433, at top, for *a*, read *or*.
469, 12 lines from bottom, for *erected*, read *created*.
355, line 10 from top, for *Snap*, read *Young Bess*.

British
FIELD SPORTS.

The Rationale, Morality, and Expedience of Field Sports.

THE ancient and universal practice of rural diversion, in the pursuit of beasts of the field, fowls of the air, and the finny tribe of the waters, together with the gratification experienced from bringing into action the instincts, opposite qualities, and natural enmities of animals, have been questioned on the score of morality and fitness, by certain religious and philanthropic sages, and by persons of superior intellectual refinement, in all, more especially in these latter ages of the world. It has been contended, and often with great force of reason and eloquence, that such pursuits are, in themselves, ignoble, beneath the dignity of a rational being; tending to harden and debase the

human heart by the necessary practice of injustice and cruelty, and to induce idle and dissolute habits, to the prejudice of all moral improvement, enlargement of mind, and profitable exertion. It is insisted, moreover, that such pursuits are adapted to the savage, not to the civilized state of man, in which both his bodily and mental faculties may be so much more rationally and profitably employed—to the open and uncultivated waste, rather than to the laboriously cultivated inclosures of advanced civilization, teeming with rich and indispensable productions, the exposure of which cannot be afforded to the rude tread and destructive ravages of savage hordes of hunters, their horses and dogs.

On the other hand, the advocates of rural sports, and amongst those also, will be found both religious and philosophical names, who, in unison of sentiment with the majority, insist, not only on ancient authority and modern usage, but on that natural inclination of the human mind to the sports of pursuit, which may be deemed analogous to the instinct of beasts of the chace.

The late Reverend Augustus Toplady, beyond all doubt, as a zealous Calvinist, an unimpeachable evidence, has delivered himself on this subject in a most liberal and discriminative way, supporting his own opinion with the gravest and most respectable authorities. The pious Bishop Latimer held that hunting is a good exercise for men of rank, and shooting an amusement equally lawful

and proper for inferior persons. The strictly religious and good Mr. Madan indulged himself in horse-racing, hunting, fishing, and shooting. Archdeacon Philpot, of old, relaxed himself, now and then, from the severity of his pious labours, with "huntynge, shootynge, bowlynge, and such lyke." The severe and rigid Calvin was yet no enemy to healthful and cheering diversions, allowing sports on the Lord's day, in which he was followed by our mother Protestant Church; and the late Bishop Horsley, in his sermons, declares himself of the same sentiment.

The paramount argument of utility, as it respects the promotion of health and the necessary destruction of wild animals, which would otherwise superabound, overrun, and destroy the country, will be generally deemed decisive.

Thus even nature herself, which, by her system, ordains the perpetual destruction of one class of animals by means of another, compels man to the duties of the chace, in which are intermingled both usefulness and delight, the system alone being responsible for the degree of cruelty unavoidably attendant. In this way we may rationally and safely quiet our conscience.

In addition to this concatenation of arguments, another seldom fails to be brought forward, susceptible, perhaps, of ludicrous comparison: sports, it seems, are to be encouraged, in order to attach our landed Aristocracy to the country life, as though they could be sensible of no other mo-

tive of sufficient weight or influence. They are, however, more attached to their country residences than any other landed proprietors in Europe, and will doubtless continue so, independently of the necessity of any additional stimulus, or of the revival of that ancient and enviable privilege in the lords of the soil—the first cut at every matrimonial dish of their tenantry.

To award with candour and justice between the parties, it will appear, in the first instance, as usual, that each, however opposite, has a certain degree of reason on its side; but that, on the whole, there is an evident preponderance of argument in favour of the advocates of Field Sports. Even nature, as has been demonstrated, is a loud and positive evidence on their behalf. She has instructed the beasts of the field to hunt and destroy their competitors, and even lordly man himself is the natural prey of the larger and more savage kind; we are thus influenced and authorised to avail ourselves of the instinct of beasts in the similar pursuit.

The arguments in reference to health, to bodily exercise, and mental diversion, and, in the ultimate, to necessity, not being controvertible, and the morality and fitness of Field Sports fully established, our business in the present discussion, Sporting Reader, now lies with the abuses, not the use of our delightful recreation. All human systems, whether of business or pleasure, are originally imperfect, and depend for that degree of perfection

of which they may be susceptible upon gradual, improvement—upon the constant and impartial inquisition into original error or incidental abuse, and the honest resolution of forbearance and amendment. It remains then to us, according to the best of our practical light and information, to point out the specific errors, denounce the abuses, and with a submissive appeal to the equal right of judgment and the candour of others, to propose such remedies, as shall accord with the universal sense of reason and humanity in civilized beings. We seek not to outrage the prejudices, far less to damp the enthusiasm of any; but rather to promote and exalt the real value of their pleasures, by divesting them, as far as possible, of barbarism and grossness, and fixing them upon the prominent foundation of reason, common sense, and indisputable utility; to render them, in fine, superior to all rational objection.

It would be an insult to the understanding of the true Sportsman of the present enlightened times, to suppose him unapprized of the truth, that his diversion must be necessarily connected with the moral sense and the feelings of humanity. Such sentiments must inevitably pervade every action of our lives, and independently of those we can have no lawful or decorous gratification. But custom may shed her mists over the brightest intellect, and counteract the purest tendencies of nature; the warmth of passion and eagerness for active gratification may overwhelm and stifle all

reflection: hence the necessity of our present monitory discussion.

The necessary and sometimes very close approximation of right and wrong, of just and unjust, of fit and unfit, resulting as well from the natural state of things, as from the erroneous applications of free agents, whose minds must ever stand in need of the assistance of a gradual experience, renders indispensible, the constant habit of a discriminative reflection. This is a universal rule, applicable as well to our diversions as to the serious business of life. In the use of the brute creation, obviously committed to the discretionary power of man, by general providence, it is an imperious duty of his reason and conscience to distinguish between the lawful use and the abuse, which distinction consists in the avoidance of all wanton and unnecessary cruelty. Feeling is, in its nature, universal and common to all sentient beings, rational or brute, and it is a part of our humanity, to respect even the feelings of brutes. A just and temperate use, and in our sports, fair pursuit and chase—as in our pugilistic contests, FAIR PLAY—are the lawful prerogative of rational man; but forced and deliberate inflictions of torture upon the bodies of animals, every infamy which comes under the foul and disgraceful name of BAITING, or BINDING TO THE STAKE, for the base and unnatural purpose of worrying out animal life by protracted suffering—can be sought as a mean of gratification by those only, whose breasts are

utterly void of sensibility, or who are so green as to have not yet attained the power of reflection; of those, in truth, of whatever rank or degree, who are not ashamed to class themselves with blackguards and idiots!

It is too notoriously true that, such barbarous fooleries have been sanctioned in former and unenlightened times by legislative authority, with the melancholy addition that such abominations have been actually defended by sages, of a period which vaunts highly of its light and humanity; on the grounds too, of a spurious and left-handed expedience, which would subserve equally well, any other plea of imagined interest, and prove an admirable justification of those savages, who desert, and consign to starvation and death, their aged and useless parents! But the right to put a period to animal existence, stands upon a ground of reason and expedience, which cannot be shaken by the arguments of a small minority of enthusiasts, whose too warm sensibilities have melted and overpowered the stern justice of their reasoning faculties. The speediest and easiest possible death to an unconscious animal is, in a thousand cases, the best boon which it can possibly receive from the humanity of man; and the defect of acting up to this principle, is one of the most prolific causes of animal misery and human inconvenience: every act then of BAITING, or worrying out the lives of animals, and all those base, degrading, unnatural, and unsportsmanlike barbarities, in any degree

connected with them, should be banished from the gallant and generous practice of the TRUE BRITISH SPORTSMAN, for the glory of his country, and as an example to the world!

To digress in a few words, surely the baiting of bulls, and other animals, as well as the devouring of living cats by obscene and loathsome human beasts, without a soul, should be banished with contempt and reprobation from the PUGILISTIC RING, that great national theatre of British courage and manhood, and the school of one great and important branch of public morals. It nearly concerns the noble and respectable attendants of those exhibitions to make the just distinction, and to the utmost of their power, to prevent all deviation from the beautiful right line of FAIR PLAY, in its most extensive signification, since every sin of ignorance, or profligacy, will be charged, by way of eminence, upon them.

Since general reasoning may not be sufficiently and particularly impressive, and lest the power of custom, to which all men are in some degree of subjection, should prevent the necessary applications, it is proper to descend to particulars, as they occur in practical recollection. It is of prime consequence, to inoculate the minds of juvenile sportsmen, and servants with true principles of the morality and propriety of their sports, and especially to impose upon servants the severest relative injunctions. Indeed it would be a noble and substantial ornament to our national character,

were humanity to animals made a universal point, impressed forcibly and early upon the infant mind, and, like FAIR PLAY in a boxing combat, held so indispensible to the British character, that shame would ever succeed its breach, with the general contempt as a necessary consequence.

To proceed to those particular points, with respect to which cautions are most requisite: the BEASTS OF CHASE, whether at the death, capture, or during their confinement, should suffer no degree of cruelty; *sufficient is their share of the common misfortune of animal nature, that they are the victims of the Chase.* It is no plea that they are in themselves ferocious or savage; nature has made them so, and destined them to be irrational, whilst their pursuers *ought to be* rational. The acute feelings and dreadful apprehensions of the timid beasts, demand our respect and indulgence; and to speak generally, the necessary outrages of the fair chase are enough, let us not *basely strike a man when he is down;* let us not torture the prisoner.

What present plan of education have we applicable to cases like the following? Captain ***** who has often, and most feelingly declared to the present writer, how his soul sickened at the tortures incessantly inflicted on miserable animals in the military service, overtook upon the Harrow road, in a sultry day, a butcher's boy on horseback, having a calf slung across the horse, its head hanging down in a most painful posture; and in addition to that torture, the cord with which its head

was fastened, passed directly over one of its eyes, galling it most violently. The animal seemed in great agony, and bleated most piteously, whilst the boy rode on, whistling with the utmost unconcern; yet bearing in his countenance no indication of a cruel disposition. The Captain remonstrating with him in favour of the poor calf, received for answer from the apparently astonished lad, "Lord, sir! what does that signify? it is to die to-morrow or next day!" The gentleman then explained to the boy the nature of a common animal feeling between man and beast, and asked him, seriously, whether, if he was in the place of the calf, such suffering would not be terrible to him, even although condemned to die on the morrow? The pupil, on this question, seemed under a sudden recollection, and affected by a new feeling. Captain B——, finding his medicine to the mind of this poor boy had begun to work, in order to assist the operation, put his hand in his pocket, and presented him with a shilling, saying, gravely, but kindly, "*Remember me to the end of your days.*" The boy, with a peculiar and softened look of conviction, and his best bow, stammered out, "I will, sir," and immediately applied to a man on the road, to assist him in placing his poor charge in the most comfortable state possible, to endure the remainder of his journey. The agonizing posture, with heads downward, even for hours together, in which calves are travelled in carts is common in France, as in this country:

Miss Williams has noticed it, with due reprobation, in certain of her works.

The breaking or education of the horse and the dog, but more especially of the latter, is too often a source of monstrous and useless cruelty; not only as it is necessarily committed to the discretion of the ignorant and uninformed, but as their superiors and employers may not always, be men with minds much versant in this branch of morality. *Diderot* says, there is such a natural growth of imperiousness and tyranny in the mind of man, that even the lowest and most grovelling of human beings must have something—a poor dog, or cat, or bird, to domineer and crow over; hence, probably, we may account for the strange conduct of the political Pretenders and Swindlers of all ages—the Cromwells, Buonapartes, and B——s, whom no other ornament could content for their vain, ostentatious, and despotic mazards, than a glittering diadem. It is, however, a consoling reflection, that among all degrees of mankind, there are individuals of a native mildness and patience of disposition, which renders them averse from acts of harshness or cruelty, whether to man or beast; independently of tuition or moral considerations. Persons of this description are best calculated for the instruction and training of animals, by which, indeed, they are often instinctively beloved and followed. It ought to be a general rule to exclude from this business, men of hasty and passionate tempers, who, in breaking animals,

too often, also, break their spirits, and greatly diminish their energies and utility. Of all things it is piteous and lamentable, to see a poor animal, harrassed, and beaten, and cut within an inch of its existence, whilst, to the eye of common sense, of which the stupid inflicter of all this misery possesses scarcely a grain, it is obvious, that the humble and astonished victim is unconscious of fault, and utterly ignorant of the cause of its punishment. It ought never to be forgotten that, although the superior kinds of animals are endowed with a degree of the reasoning faculty, it is yet with but a limited degree; and there are necessarily many lessons and commands which the brute mind can comprehend but slowly, and many things, which by beasts can never be comprehended at all. Thence the necessity of a mild and patient forbearance; of the plainest and most intelligible modes of teaching; and above all, of affording sufficient time for the learner to avail itself of gradual impressions, since hasty lessons, attended with severe punishment, will generally end in distraction, desperation, uncertain qualification, or absolute worthlessness. It ought to be received as an unquestionable axiom, that they who cannot command their own passions, are of all others the most unfit to command or instruct brute animals; to do which, with propriety and real usefulness, requires unbounded patience and forbearance.

That occasional and sometimes very severe Correction is absolutely necessary both for two and

four legged brutes, no man of common sense will deny. It consists of two modes; by rating or chiding, in an appropriate and severe tone of voice, and by actual infliction of bodily pain. The first alone should be practised and repeated patiently, until it plainly appear to be ineffectual; the mildest punishment should then be inflicted, to be increased, if need be, to the utmost allowable degree of severity, which failing, it is far preferable to end a hopeless and disgusting business, by putting the animal as easily as possible out of existence. Castigation also should always be of the fair and allowable kind, void of base and cowardly torture, and never inflicted for mere misfortune, or on the horrid principle of prospective or probable guilt. On this last point a very apt elucidation may be drawn from a writer, who has, through a long course of years, and it is to be hoped successfully, laboured in the cause of humanity towards brute animals.

" As little am I convinced of the justice, or even necessity, of torturing the feelings of the poor hare, or timid deer, by keeping them bound in the kennel, in sight of their dreaded enemies, the hounds; whilst these last are punished, with the severe and continued discipline of the whip, for a crime which *they may possibly* commit at some future period; a discipline which it is a thousand to one whether five dogs in a score understand the meaning of, and which would be utterly unallowable, granting they did, such punishment being

founded upon an unjust and unwarrantable principle. I should conceive that immediate and severe chastisement, upon the actual attempt to commit the crime, would be much more effectual, as well as much more consonant with equity, which neither ought nor need be excluded even from our sports; nor ever will be by the naturally just, after the season of reflection. Mr. Beckford seems to think this flogging process an act of preventive humanity. He appears to me to be arming himself against the wrong horn of the dilemma: a very common case.

"Discipline and correction upon a similar principle have been supposed to beat into the heads of horses, the various manœuvres of the grand manége, which I am convinced might be inculcated with infinitely less assistance from the whip."—*Philosophical and Practical Treatise on Horses.*

Such cruel inconsistencies detract from the sterling merits of Mr. Beckford's book, and their absence form a strong additional recommendation of the valuable Work of that really original writer on the subject, who modestly assumes the designation of a compiler—the Reverend W. B. Daniel. In the cheerless list of cruelties, I regret having to inscribe a single instance from a very useful and practical little book. The author inconsiderately recommends, in warning a dog from running after poultry, to tie a living fowl to his tail, and so to make him run the gauntlet with the whip. But in the mean time, what crime has the poor fowl

committed, to merit death by horrible affright, and to be beaten and torn to death piecemeal? And how unaccountable it is, that common sense and common feeling should utterly overlook the distinction, yet we witness thousands of such inconsistencies. A dead fowl would, beyond all question, answer the intended purpose. The dog having pursued or destroyed poultry, and being severely cut with a fowl at his tail, would well remember the why and the wherefore; for animals are generally capable of reasoning so far, without being able to enter into such a nice discrimination as whether the fowl, the instrument of his punishment, were at first appended to his stern, alive or dead.

It would be unpardonable to omit in this place, a too common similar act of thick-headed barbarity —tying a cannister to the tail of an unfortunate and harmless dog, by which the wretched animal is driven off with every symptom of affright and distraction, to receive the most cruel additions to his misery, from all of his own kind, and from every insensible brute of a superior kind, that he may encounter in his dreadful course. It may be a dangerous thing to attempt to relieve the victim, granting a person at hand endowed with sufficient humanity; and this kind of infliction is most inhuman, as generally practised upon deserted and strayed animals, which are anxiously prowling about, supplicating food and shelter for the support of their miserable existence.

The cat, as a fellow domestic, will naturally follow the dog. Our hunting system is too generally disgraced by the habitual worrying to death, these useful and fondly attached animals, which are surely entitled to our protection. The servants of the Kennel and the Stud stand in particular need of instruction, as generally prone to this species of cruelty. Indeed it must not be concealed that the very principle of the chase, takes a vicious direction in the untutored and insensible mind; hence the gratification experienced by London blackguards, some of them, according to a late exposition, of a superior class, in hunting, torturing and harrassing the harmless ox. Cats, in a wild state, of which I believe none remain in Britain, are doubtless a fair object of chase.

Dogs should be taught, whilst very young, their proper objects of pursuit, or rather, in the first place, those which they never ought to pursue or touch. With respect to hunting sheep, the incorrigible dogs are chiefly such as have not been warned sufficiently early, or have been quite neglected. A good and faithful dog, well taught, may be safely depended upon in this case; and I have had those which would feed upon the carcases of rotten sheep, lying upon the common, and yet never in their lives, shewed the least inclination to attack a living sheep; one dog in particular, which, when at liberty, was extremely given to ramble. It is a useful method to bring up a few lambs among

sporting dogs, so far, that they may be accustomed to see and gambol with each other.

The HUNTING HORSE, fortunately, is not much in the way of severe usage, until he gets into actual service; for his training is easy, or ought to be so, and merely promotive of his health and vigour, whilst his lessons at the bar, in order to render him a safe and high leaper, should be so gradual and easy, as to be rather a diversion than a task. In the field his sorrows may come too soon, under an ignorant, heavy, and unskilful, or a hot-headed and unfeeling rider. The latter character, totally insensible to animal sufferings, esteems his hunter no otherwise than a mere machine, which he either madly or coolly subjects to the pangs of exhausted wind and strength, to death outright, by the breaking of his heart, or to sudden stoppage of his career, and utter inability to proceed. Behold then, the poor victim of folly and abuse, covered with foam, clouds of steam issuing from his body, his tail quivering, flanks hollow and panting, trying perhaps ineffectually to urine, tottering upon his legs, his head hanging down, eye dull and fixed, countenance dejected; his blood-drenched sides shewing the nature of that reward he has received, for his exertions to the very verge of existence; and this held a fit subject for the stupid jokes and insipid sarcasms of heartless and grinning idiots!

The writer is feelingly and experimentally aware of the difficulty, or almost impossibility of con-

trouling the passionate impulse and enthusiastic ardour which rage in the breasts of both horse and man during the heat of the chase; and if prudence cannot then have place, he will only call for mercy and justice. Let us then settle the matter fairly and gallantly; if the horse, inspired with the same impetuosity and headlong eagerness for the chase with his master, will run himself to death, a self-devoted victim, we accept the sacrifice, just as we hail and cheer the bravery of him, keeping in the back ground his lack of brains, who dashes, at all risks, and makes no bones of that which may finish in breaking his limbs or his neck. But let us forcibly deprecate all savage and cruel driving of the generous horse beyond both his ability and his will—all useless and barbarous tortures with the irons, which horses, from the natural elevation of their spirits, if not fondness for the sport, will ever need less in the field than elsewhere; in fine, all unnecessary and unfair severities. The horse is an animal endowed, by nature, with high generosity and courage; and the breasts of many of them swell with as warm and genuine a passion for the chase, as those of their lordly and high-bred masters. It must then be a generous and noble sentiment in the breast, indicative of a true Sportsman, to view his horse in the light of a humble companion and sharer in his pleasures; and with this humble and most indispensible friend he should fairly share both the joys and the risks, bestowing an equal solicitude on his safety and his

comfort. We proceed consecutively to the *prudent* rider, a string which we are yet too prudent to touch extensively, since far be it from us to cast a damp upon, or to attempt any impediment in the way of those dashing and heroic enterprizes, which may possibly lead to the glorious finale of a broken neck—to the Apotheosis of the chase! We only submit to the reflection of our heroes, a casual view of the probably superior, because more steady and lasting enjoyments of the courageous, but temperate and prudent horseman. The unthinking practice of abusing, maltreating, or neglecting disabled horses, or those which are unfortunately, or constitutionally bad, needs to be mentioned only to excite the severest sense of reprobation and disgust in those who can understand and feel.

Equally brief must we discretely be, on the glorious subject of conviviality after the chase. Could we be so unreasonable as to attempt to quench the spirit of enjoyment, after the toils of the day—to damp the joyous ardour of narrative, to stifle hilarity and the genial roar of the table, at their very birth? How essentially do those depend on copious and unrestricted libations at the shrine of the jolly god! And we have not the temerity to enter the lists as reformers, with headache, listlessness, nausea, gout, stone, and decrepitude. Lastly, what a drawback upon all pleasures and sports! what a clog upon all human enjoyments! what an unwelcome interruption are serious reflections and the precise observances of

humanity and moral propriety! Nevertheless, nothing worth having, our pleasures even, are to be obtained but at the cost of a certain portion of labour and care; and it is merely submitted to Tyros and Aspirants, how far the necessary moral extension of those, will probably remunerate them for their pains.

GAME LAWS.

With the nature, defects, and consequences, actual and prospective, of the Game Laws, it is proposed to conclude the present section. They form, indeed, an ungrateful topic to discuss, from the consideration that, a great majority of the supporters of those laws, and those persons of the first consequence in the country, are so hereditarily and strongly prejudiced in their favour, as to be utterly averse to any analysis of them, and in an equal degree, inclined to view with a suspicious eye, the man who shall act with so great a share of temerity. But the writer who is ambitious of faithfully serving the public, and who possesses a mind too upright and too lofty, to render himself subservient to a part only, must wave the inferior considerations of personal interest. And surely by such conduct he will promote, at least the permanent and solid interests of those, whose prejudices he is compelled by conscious rectitude to oppose. They, however, who are so rigidly attached to privileged rights,

ought not to reject, or be offended at discussion, which is an universal and inalienable right. Do they possess any regard for the policy of honest truth? If they do, in what mode are they to obtain a just verdict, short of a full investigation of the evidence?

THE GAME LAWS, generally dated from the statute of Richard the Second, are a somewhat improved offspring of the ancient Forest Laws. The ancient Barons found themselves aggrieved by the latter, and, by their powerful influence, compelled the paramount Baron, or King, to moderate those oppressive statutes, or customary prerogatives of Royalty; and of this advantage the people at large necessarily succeeded to a certain share. The Barons, however, of those days, whether at Runnymede, or on any other occasion of contention with the Crown, evinced a certain invariable political discretion; allowing to the commonalty beneath them, no greater share of the benefits obtained, excepting perhaps in professions and rhetorical figures, than could not possibly be withheld, consistently with their own pretensions and safety. The people at large, in their turn, now demand a redress of grievances from the modern Lords of the Soil, similar to that which the ancient Barons demanded and obtained from the Crown.

These antiquated statutes are obviously grounded on the worst and least tenable of all rights, that of conquest. The conquering chief, obtaining temporary possession of the whole soil of a country,

assumed to himself whatever parts, and whatever rights and privileges over the whole, were satisfactory to his royal will and pleasure; making besides, subordinate divisions of lands, immunities, and privileges, among his followers and immediate vassals. Subsequently, and in subservience to this premier arrangement, the people came in for thatshare of liberty and property which it permitted them to retain. But arbitrary assumptions derived from right of conquest, must ever become galling to a people, in proportion to their advance in knowledge and civilization; and a deliverance from those, is an advantage obtained earliest in commercial countries. Thence gradual concessions in favour of general rights, are obtained; and although certain splendid legal fictions are suffered to remain, and even considerable abuses continue to be tolerated; the main spring of ancient and original tyranny, is, in process of time, broken; its diverse subsidiary powers being left to the watchful, but conciliating hand of future reform. Such has been the course of events in our own country. The Forest Laws were first restained and moderated; feudality and vassalage next gave place to a system, however imperfect, more consentaneous with human liberty. But not to digress into political analogies, the Game Laws yet remain; a galling relic of ancient tyranny, and prominent mark of popular aversion in all times, but infinitely enhanced in the present, from the general diffusion of knowledge, the greater demand for the enjoy-

ments and conveniences of life, and the superior facilities for their attainment.

The patriotic Sir Thomas Bernard, in his late publication on the national loss and impolicy of the Salt Duties, thus characterizes the Game Laws:—"The system which disgraces our Statute Book, under the name of Game Laws, operates *universally*, and creates thieves and poachers over the whole kingdom." In proof of this, there are at this moment, between one and two thousand delinquents incarcerated in England for a breach of the laws by poaching. There is, notwithstanding, a great and enlightened majority in full agreement on the subject with the worthy baronet. Certain of our ablest Senators have, in Parliament, professed their readiness to reform the abuses of this system of monopoly, and a bill was lately pending for its regulation, which was rejected: in the mean time there exists a high-toned, prejudiced, and almost fanatical determination, never to suffer, if possible, even the outworks of these ancient and sacred institutions to be approached; and, as usually happens on all similar occasions, these find the most effective auxiliaries in those conciliating adversaries, who oppose them in words and professions only.

The nature and extent of the meditated change form a material object of consideration with respect to their probable efficacy, or the contrary; since, in the latter case, we can have nothing in prospect

but loss of time, and exertion to a bad purpose. A question of no small importance here obtrudes itself. It is proposed, by those who will venture upon any meddling at all with the Game Laws, to act with the usual and precedented discretion, and to proceed no farther than regulation and a moderate change. But, in the minds of reformers of this class, does the absurdity, to use the softest term, never occur, of regulating and moderating injustice? In an application to their own particular interests, no doubt that their sensibilities and their memories would most readily perform their office. It will appear, by an investigation of the nature of the Game Laws, whether or not mere regulation will answer the purposes of substantial justice or expedience; and in all acts, whether of a public or private nature, those grand considerations can never be overlooked with safety, in an advanced state of society, and a general diffusion of intelligence. The grace, moreover, of timely and liberal concession should be well weighed and compared, in respect to real dignity and advantage, with the rigour of haughty and unaccommodating refusal; without forgetting the uncertainty and probable danger of the latter, of which the laws in question, in another country, exhibited a memorable example.

Blackstone is not here quoted on account of the profundity of his judgment in the science of legislation, but as a fashionable authority: he justly

observes, that—" by the law of nature every man, from the prince to the peasant, has an equal right of pursuing and taking them (*feræ naturæ*, animals in a state of nature) to his own use." Now, on the safety and even necessity of regulating the law of nature under the social system, there is no question; but so much can by no means be said in favour of its contravention. This seems to be the first stage for deliberation in the case, and for enquiry into the relative merits of our jurisprudence. The result will be that, far from resting at this law of nature, we have totally stifled and destroyed it in one part of the people, in order that it may accumulate in another and more favoured part; favoured, because already in possession of so many other advantages. The Game Laws forbid, under penalties appropriate to felony, the majority of the people to pursue or kill upon the highways and common lands certain animals and birds, which, from their being in a state of nature, are the common right and property of all: they are restrained even from purchase. The majority, or those unqualified by law, namely, much more than ninety-nine in a hundred of the people, according to Sir William Elford, are forbidden to keep in their possession dogs, guns, or other implements, by which certain wild animals, the *protegés* of the Game Laws, may be killed or taken; and that which seems the climax or filling up to the brim the measure of injustice in this case, proprietors of land, under a

certain value, are forbidden to touch their own game, bred upon their own land, and fed with its produce! Can it possibly have been overlooked, that the right of these proprietors is, at least, equal in validity, to that by which the Crown itself is held, or to any other right, privilege, or property whatsoever. "A freeholder," says Blackstone, "is a freeman in the possession of the soil. Land hath in its legal signification, an indefinite extent upwards as well as downwards; *cujus est solum, ejus est usque ad cælum*, and downwards, whatever is in a direct line, between the surface of any land and the centre of the earth, belongs to the owner of the surface. So that the word land includes not only the face of the earth, but every thing under it or over it." But let us take a glimpse at the nature, temperament, and consequences of these laws, by which a man is punished for an act not *malum in se*, pleasant, convenient, and profitable to himself, and in which his fellow men not only indulge themselves, but arrogate exclusively to themselves.

The celebrated law authority above cited has ventured the strange decision, that "the sole right of taking and destroying game belongs exclusively to the king." This, perhaps, is to be understood rather as the compliment of a courtier, than the grave *dictum* of a lawyer; for, being obvious, it requires no proof that the crown possesses no such exclusive right, nor a shadow of power by which

it could prevent those authorized by the laws, from taking and destroying game. Blackstone, in this passage, must be understood as referring to the tyrannical assumptions of the first monarchs, of which, as has been observed, they granted participation to their immediate vassals and dependents, under the titles of free warren and chase, and various other denominations, immunities and exclusive privileges; which, after certain modifications, and some curtailment by the legislature, at different periods, remain centered in the lords, or possessors of manors. The complaint is, there are yet too deep traces remaining of the ancient system.

The same writer farther observes, "The Game Laws do indeed qualify nobody; they are not properly qualifications, but exemptions from the additional penalties imposed on persons of inferior rank." The definition would have been more correct, had it stated the qualification to be partial only, authorizing the party to kill game upon his own lands, and elsewhere, until forbidden formally by the lord of the manor, a privilege which no unqualified person possesses. Thus the lords of the manors do, in fact, seem to have parcelled out among their own body, powers, and privileges respecting the game, nearly bordering upon those which Sir William Blackstone has ascribed to the king.

In defence of the principle of the Game Laws, it has been urged, that "in a highly cultivated, well-peopled country, no animal can properly be

considered as wild; all are supported by the labour and property of those who cultivate the soil —that he who has no land, and consequently contributes nothing to their maintenance, is no more entitled to any use of them, and has no more a pretence to seize to his own use a hare or a partridge, than a sheep or a goose from him who has chosen to vest his property in land. In the former, as in the latter case, he ought to tempt the owner to sell what is wanted." And Mr. Chitty, in his Treatise, goes so far as to aver, that "there is no objection applicable to the principle on which the Game Laws are founded, which is not equally applicable to land;" that is to say, the principle of the law, by which land is appropriated; which is surely a rash and inconsiderate assertion: for in what part of the general and customary laws which govern land and property, can be discovered such a breach of right, and such an incongruity, as subsist in that part of the Game Laws, which absolutely inhibits a proprietor the uses of his property, by preventing him from taking game upon his own land.

The former writer seems to adhere to the abstract question, or principle, without noticing practical abuses, such as that just quoted; but he is so rational as to encourage the sale of game, by hinting at the propriety of tempting the owner to sell what is wanted. At last, however plausible, his abstract view is *ex parte*, and incomplete. On a fundamental discussion of the subject, there can be

no doubt that right to property in land, and to property in its produce of every description, stand upon the same foundation; thence a man's pheasants and partridges are as much his exclusive property, as his land on which they are bred, and upon the produce of which they are nourished: but this, according to the plainest rules of both natural and social justice, must be only whilst, and so long as, they are retained upon their owners' land, and nourished by its productions; not only because they are still kept *feræ naturæ*, in their original wild state; but even if otherwise, the case would not be materially altered, since no man can possess the right, in a state of civilization and partition, to turn out his domesticated animals to feed at large, either upon other private, or the common property. To argue *in universis* and philosophically, the land of every country, with its various products and animals in their original state, together with the fish of the inland waters, and of those of the ocean washing its shores, are, in the aggregate, the common property of *all* the inhabitants of such country. It is nevertheless, agreed, with equal universality and equal truth, that no country can possibly remain at once in such state, and in the enjoyment of the social system; *nor can a civilized country ever again be reduced to its primitive state, but at the price of a total abandonment and destruction of that system, the most valuable birthright and privilege of man, and which best deserves his most energetic and everlasting defence.* Here we have

in full view, the transcendant folly and injustice of the ancient and modern agrarian principles, and of their half-way abettors; the principles indeed of a most diminutive and insignificant minority, in all times and all countries, of frantic idealists, the pretended friends, but most dangerous enemies, of the poor and needy, who, in pursuit of shadows, nonentities, impossibilities; would dash the whole substance, the beautiful, costly, and long laboured frame of civilization to atoms, and drive back the pendulum of improvement, and of social and general happiness, some thousands of years.

Most fortunately for social man, the numbers and the power of these planet-stricken world-menders are equally diminutive and impotent, and must, from the very nature of things, ever remain so: but equally fortunate, the social contract, tacit however, and occult, but to the searching eye of philosophy, by no means subsists devoid of principles, and of obvious and effectual means for the reclaimer of real, but of ravished or suspended rights; and that without the slightest permanent danger to the contract itself. On the contrary, with the fairest chance of its melioration and improvement to its original purity: a truth humbly addressed to those, who would blindly and temerariously persevere in antiquated and customary injustice, supported by illegitimate legislation.

With the original appropriation and settlement of lands, in any civilized country, and with whatever irregularity and injustice, and under what-

ever defective titles those may have been effected, it would be futile and useless in the extreme, to meddle, at this late stage of society. Why should mortal man, born to indispensible labour, impair his precious faculties with labour in vain? Putting all primitive title out of question, that man, or family, who obtain a waste plat or parcel of the common right, and who fence it about, endow it with their property, and improve it so far beyond its original worth by their labour, have well earned an exclusive right to the estate, and its possession in fee simple. Here are rights which no reason can controvert, and which come home to the understanding and the bosoms of all; but we are not thence to infer pretended, spurious, and oppressive privileges and immunities, nor basely to pander to the too natural encroachments of wealth; nor permit property, however sacred and pure we wish to preserve its essence, to exact more than its lawful due.

In pursuance of these just and obvious principles, the community may, with the utmost propriety, say to the great barons, or landed proprietors, we make no irrelevant or bootless enquiries into the original titles of your estates, into the right of those who first bestowed them upon your ancestors, or whether the lands were first seized upon, *vi et armïs*, in order that the intended proprietors should be regularly and legally seized thereof. We acquiesce most willingly, in that right which fortune awarded to your predecessors, because it is pre-

cisely and specifically, that kind of right to be expected in the commencement or early stages of society; but in this acquiescence, we certainly do not include a voluntary and slavish submission to those additions, which have been arbitrarily made to allowable rights; in other and better words, those injurious encroachments on general rights, which, however imperfectly enjoyed at the commencement, are indispensible to the completion and perfection of the social system.

The great body of the people may justly demand —are the common highways of nature, the air, the waters, and the wastes, to be monopolized by the overbearing few, and their proper uses prohibited to the majority, under severe and ruinous penalties? that majority, or people, which can never forfeit their general right to their native soil and its products, however bound by the social contract to submit to just and equitable particular rights: that people who have a natural and inalienable right to a portion of the soil, on which to exist and take their recreations, and perform their social duties, as well as to a needful share of the national subsistence for the support of life.

It is not easy to convince men of the sufficiency of an exclusive right over any of the fowls of the air or the beasts of the field, whilst in a state of nature, and roaming at large over the common country; these were originally the common right and property, and their case is perfectly analagous to that of land, and their being seized as,

and held in special or particular possession, can alone constitute a legitimate or legal title to them. And surely this ought to be sufficient to the most tenacious of right, or avaricious of property.

Adjunct or relative questions will likewise spontaneously arise in the mind of the free enquirer, and in all times of free enquiry, and cannot, by any human means, be silenced or repressed. What kind of right is that, it will be demanded, by which a small minority of the people of a country, lay their hands upon a whole species of the *feræ naturæ*, the common right of all? then determine, and put their resolve in execution—WE, and our deputies, will and shall have the sole and exclusive use and possession of these. They shall neither be bought, nor sold, nor chased, nor enjoyed, but by ourselves, or through our express permission. Because we have secured to ourselves the greatest possessions, we, through the power thence derived, and at our discretion, without consulting either the discretion, inclination, convenience, or prejudices of others, do decree to what degree of property, a certain portion of our assumed privilege shall extend. To those who are proprietors of land, but possessing only one pound per annum less in estate than one hundred pounds, we decree the enviable honour and advantage, of harbouring, breeding, and feeding the game for our sole advantage, without any remuneration or recompense whatever, or the smallest power of participation or enjoyment. We decide finally, that Field Sports are fit, on our own judg-

ment, for us alone, or those by us authorised, and we will that they be kept sacred from the vulgar; and that even *inferior tradesmen*, such is the tenor of the law, shall be prohibited, and incur the penalties for Sporting, although possessed of property to the amount of the legal qualification.

We are sufficiently aware of the ingenuity and power of special pleading, and that there never existed an oppression, or grievance, political, theological, moral, or economical, which was not at the same time proved, as clearly as logic and eloquence could render it, entirely accordant with the public good—*an equal law both to the prince and the peasant*. Unfortunately for this species of patriotism, the great body of the community are very tardy in their conviction of its benefits.

A sketch has now been given, and it is conceived, a fair one, of the principle of the Game Laws, contrasted with a just and unimpeachable theory of public or universal right. Not the slightest disrespect or offence is intended by this free discussion; and the author is confident no offence will be taken by the candid and enlightened part of the Aristocracy. Of the other portion, he craves a spice of that patience and forbearance, which such multitudes of their countrymen are compelled to exercise in their behalf. Daily experience, indeed it may be said, imminent danger, fully demonstrate the necessity of an immediate change of some kind; and in order to enable those in whose power it lies to make the desired reform, it is indispensable to

consider the subject fundamentally, that the meditated improvement may be fundamental likewise, which is only another word for useful and permanent. The general want of this radical mode of proceeding, has filled our statute books with too much of irrelevant, absurd, and useless legislation; the legal plastering being in a constant course of wear and tear, and importunately demanding periodical renewal.

It is impossible that the well-intentioned, the just, and the honourable, having laboured in the meritorious path of conviction, can desire to perpetuate injustice, or arbitrarily to retain exclusive privileges, which militate against the public feelings and the public weal. And it is even difficult to conceive, how the most voracious appetite can possibly crave more of the advantages and enjoyments of life, than are entailed spontaneously and legitimately, upon the exalted and opulent classes, by the most widely extended social system—lawful privileges, because resulting fairly from the nature of the case, which no man controverts, and which may be everlastingly enjoyed without risk or question. Can it be reconciled with a sanity of intellect in any man, or body of men, to put such noble privileges to the risk, or even disturb the serenity of their lives, and debase their characters by the addition of spurious and unjust claims, infallibly attended with dissatisfaction, disobedience, and ill-blood in their inferiors.

The Laws of the Chase and the Forest, in every

country, have been conceived in principles of the grossest tyranny, and written in characters of blood. There is no need to repeat here the well-known enormities, in our own country, of William our Conqueror, and several of his successors, nor the modern barbarities of ante-revolutional France, Wirtemberg, and other European countries. But an infernal copy of ancient barbarity, perpetrated in Russia, as lately as the year 1795, must not be passed over without notice, and will not be read or recollected by the man who wears a heart, without the most painful throbbings of passion and indignation. "The dreadful punishment of chaining a man to the back of a stag, was revived in June 1795, upon the frontiers of *Kiow*, upon the *Dnieper*, in Russia, where a stag was seen passing at full speed with that lamentable burden. It was vain for the spectators, had they dared, to attempt to rescue the wretch from his tremendous situation, since the affrighted beast passed with the velocity of lightning, and was out of sight in an instant. But they could distinctly hear the piteous moans and appeals for mercy and assistance of the victim. Some short time afterwards the mangled corpses of the man and the beast were found by some wood-cutters in Poland." This wretch was supposed to be a sacrifice on the bloody altar of the chase, offered up by the savage tyranny of some potent lord: historical testimony leaves no doubt that this most horrible of all inflictions has, in former days, been the penalty of trespasses, real or

imaginary, upon the privileges of the forest, not only upon the Continent, but in this island. Hell has surely too often vomited its progeny upon this polluted earth!

The present King of Wirtemberg appears, from real goodness of intention, disposed to make all possible amends to his subjects, so many of whom were utterly ruined by the headstrong, absurd, and stupid attachments of his predecessor. His Majesty has most judiciously and justly disposed of and dispersed a most unworthy part of his inheritance, the man-eating rabble of birds and beasts; and if the public accounts are worthy of dependence, he has, like a true patriot, entirely enfranchised his country from the unequal burden of Game Laws. But among patriots who have worn the purple, the memory of no one shines with purer lustre, nor has fairer claims to a deathless remembrance, than that of LEOPOLD, GRAND DUKE OF TUSCANY. "Before the rights of men agitated Europe, Leopold had come to a government full of distinctions and exclusions: he immediately opened all the offices of state to all ranks; he brought all men under the same law and tribunals; he suppressed unnecessary courts; he simplified the course of justice; he instituted for Tuscany, a penal code of small volume, a code which abolished torture, mutilation of body, the pains of death, and the sequestration of land; yet from steady enforcement rendered crimes rare, and murders unknown—and, HE OPENED THE RIVERS

AND FREED THE CHASE FROM RESTRAINT."— "The Medici (former Sovereigns) turned all the treasures of their little state into such a mausoleum for their ambitious lust, as beggars every monarch's in Europe; a mausoleum lined with the rarest marbles, and incrusted with precious stones: Leopold designed for his family the same common ground that received the meanest of his subjects. Those up-starts, risen from the country-house to the throne, arrogated all the attributes of majesty; LEOPOLD, the son, the brother, and the heir of Emperors, freed his subjects from the debasement of kneeling."

This was indeed a patriot Sovereign—of such a one, even the ingenuity of Bolingbroke could form no idea—at once the illustrious example and foil of the possessors of thrones. Mr. Forsyth's Remarks on the Antiquities, Arts, and Letters of Italy, furnished the above quotations; a book teeming with instruction and amusement, and equally valuable for the strength and beauty of the composition.

The savage enormities and arbitrary jurisdiction of barbarians, cannot prevail in a free and enlightened state of society; nevertheless, unequal laws, the relics of ancient barbarism, may still lurk in the early folds of the code of such a state, as we find to our lasting regret. And these have their modes of infliction, or torture, by intimidation, harrassing, fine, the ruinous legal vexation by the heaviest purse, imprisonment, transportation!

Surely torture enough to satisfy the most proud and vindictive, may issue from such means as these. Laws of this illegitimate nature too, cut like a two-edged weapon, and are pregnant with misery and danger to both, or rather to all parties in the commonwealth. The desire to preserve them, betrays too great inclination to arbitrary power, which their exercise will be sure to foster and increase; and their effect upon that part of the people which do, or may come within the sphere of their operation, is, to produce indignant hatred, contumacy, the lust of revenge, and above all, that laxity of principle, suspicion and contempt of law, which unequal, tyrannical, or insidious laws never fail to inspire. Such laws, in fact, are obeyed merely for wrath's sake; they are viewed as shackles, of which the subjects are determined to rid themselves, *per fas aut nefas*, on the first favourable occasion, holding them, in the mean time, in supreme detestation, and making a sort of merit of their clandestine breach. How strange must be the motive, and how little accordant with a liberal discrimination, I had almost said, with common sense, which can impel men to desire the continuance of such a spirit of legislation!

A quotation from a late speech in Parliament, attributed by the Daily Papers to Sir Mark Wood, and highly creditable to the feeling of the honourable Baronet, will be in point here: "I decidedly approve that the sale of Game be legalized. I remember an old act, by which a person found, at

night, in the pursuit of Game, is liable to be sent, for twelvemonths, to the House of Correction, as a rogue and a vagrant, or to the Army or Navy for life. Every one has heard of the soldier, who was brought over from Germany in a state of constant sleep, whence he could not, by any possible means, be roused. He was taken into York Hospital, and in consequence of the humane attention of Colonel Christie recovered. Having an opportunity of conversing with this man, I found, that he had originally been apprehended in Gloucestershire, under Mr. Joddrell's Act, and sent for six months to the House of Correction, whence he was transferred to the Royal York Rangers. The affliction which he felt in consequence of being torn from his wife and family occasioned his singular disorder. He was restored, however, to his senses; and the Prince Regent, with that humanity for which he is so conspicuous, gave him a free pardon, and sent him home to his wife and family. Let the purchasers of Game in this great metropolis reflect on this occurrence, and pause before they gratify their own palates, at the risk of endangering some poor man's life and happiness."

The first, and, to make use of a term, fashionably and usually attached to property, the most respectable opponents of the Game Laws, are the great body of wealthy persons, who have their motives, and who shall gainsay them? for declining to vest their property in land. This great and substantial body presents itself, not indeed in the attitude and

style of the ancient Barons, upon another occasion, when, with their hands upon their sword hilts, they said *nolumus leges Angliæ mutari;* but with equal reason, and equal indignation, the former say,—who can possibly have a just right to dictate to us, and forbid us to lay out our money in such and such provisions, the natural produce of the soil, under grievous and disgraceful penalties, because it is their will and pleasure to monopolize and restrict such produce to their own use? Are the persons referred to, proper objects to be compelled by law to beg, or to accept of favours, in order to make up their meals, whilst others are rioting to a boundless satiety, in this so much and so generally coveted gratification?

The Game Laws have been one great cause, subservient indeed to a still greater, of the demorilization of vast and increasing numbers of the labouring class in the country, of all descriptions, agricultural and mechanic. The poachers of the present day, are the legitimate descendants of the Deer Stealers of old, who never failed of a market for their venison; and as it was then held, *non inquirendum est, unde venit* VENISON, so at present, no man, in the purchase or eating of his game, thinks himself at all concerned to enquire, whether it be poached or qualified; the majority perhaps preferring the former for the same reason which attaches such numbers to smuggled goods, which they boast have never been infected by the exciseman's staff. As a body, the peasantry never could be convinced

of the equity of these laws, and individuals never scruple to infringe them on any tempting occasion, making this salvo for their conscience—those it is to be understood, who have investigated the nature of right and wrong, and such there are among the meanest—that granting detection and punishment should ensue, the guilt will lie with others, not with them. Dependent upon these sweet and stolen waters, upon this irregular mode of support, until it fails, and no resource left, actual guilt ensues, almost as a necessary sequence, sears the conscience, and destroys the man. What or who has put this poor man in the way of temptation and perdition? It is an inquisition for blood! A poor man may, as well as a rich, have, and many poor men have to their great misfortune, a natural, inbred, irresistible propensity to Field Sports. Work becomes slack, wages low, and at the arbitrary rating of employers and parish officers, and perhaps a family of wretched children are starving at a comfortless home; there is a general demand for game, which our lawgivers have hitherto virtually decreed shall be supplied by poachers only. This demand proceeds from the *other* Aristocracy which determines, that it *shall* be supplied in spite of laws, which they do not approve, and to which they have not assented. The following recent anecdote will elucidate this matter. An opulent merchant, who lives in a splendid style, was, last season, disappointed of game at a great dinner. He summoned his poulterer next morning, to know the reason of such a

disappointment, and was informed that the risk of penalties was too great; that he had hitherto escaped, and intended to give up the sale of game. He was immediately acquainted, that he must then expect to lose the gentleman's custom, which was, however, too valuable to be parted with; and it was agreed between the parties, that whatever penalties might accrue, should be defrayed by them jointly, the poulterer being at the same time, advised to make a similar agreement with his other considerable customers.

The poachers are thus enlisted into the service by principals, with whom they are in perfect agreement of opinion, concerning the Game Laws; and thence commences a grand rivalry between them and the Game Keepers, many of whom are the most considerable poachers in the country. The poor labourer, seduced from industrious and virtuous habits, engages with ardour and obstinacy in his new adventurous vocation, desperately risking his liberty, his limbs, and even his life. He becomes suspected, arbitrarily treated, his dwelling broken into and searched: he is at length detected and imprisoned. Having served out his term, he issues forth from prison, a man abandoned and ruined for life. The regular habits of laborious industry have now become impossible: the outcast either takes to poaching again, or engages in general robbery and spoil, or even in dreadful midnight incendiary practices, his mind being imbued with the most deadly hatred and revenge against all people

of property, to whom he attributes his expulsion from society, and his ruin. Can it possibly be desired to continue a system productive of effects like these, which are obviously increasing, and must increase? It has been retorted, very coolly, "Well, we can hang up these delinquents." But can that be done with a clear conscience, or with any rational hope of putting a period to the evil?

A great number of the most eminent persons of the present time, both for talents and landed property, Peers and Commoners, are said to be even zealous in the desire to revise and thoroughly reform the Game Laws. In this honourable and patriotic list we see ranged—the MARQUIS OF ANGLESEA, the EARL OF ESSEX, SIR JOHN SEBRIGHT, SIR WILLIAM ELFORD, MR. CURWEN, COL. WOOD, MR. WILBERFORCE, MR. BANKES, MR. PRESTON, SIR MARK WOOD, with many other honourable names, not in instant recollection. These generous and high-minded men, no doubt feel a deep mortification that a necessity should yet exist, in Britain and Ireland, for those barbarous relics of feudality, the MAN-TRAP, SPRING-GUN, DOG-SPEAR, and MOUNTAIN-POISONING systems of protection for property; and they nobly offer to set an example of justice and equity, in regard to the rights and property of other men, which may shed an extensive and beneficial influence, even to the very lowest ranks of society; and operate, it is rational to expect, far more effectively, than the most barbarous punishments. Every cause rela-

tive to Game, tried in the Courts, seems to shew, that the lawyers are heartily tired of the Game Laws. The first step, therefore, necessary, is some comprehensive plan, which shall reach the root of the evil. Such a plan will proceed with the best grace, and most certain effect, from the public characters above-named, and their peers; that is to say, a committee of them; and if the present writer presumes to offer the following sketch, upon a subject which has absorbed a considerable share of his attention, it is solely with a view of giving an opinion upon a point of common interest, therefore open to public discussion. His chief aim is, to state the general right and equity of the case, committing impartially the practical moderation of that right, to both parties; to the one, how much it will concede; to the other, what it will be contented to accept. He affects not the task of decision, as to those quantums; yet he will not say, with those redoubtable Northern Critics, who have made such a cry in the world of letters, with whatever quantity of wool, "We love truth well, but we love expedience better;" because that kind of expedience is invariably home-made, the produce of the factory. He wishes justice to all, and, if possible, contentment to all.

Outline of a Plan for the Preservation of that Species of Live Stock Property, known by the denomination of Game, and for its due and expedient Regulation.

1. The present Game Laws to be repealed in the aggregate, and all Game Laws and Regulations to be embodied in one Act, according to the proposal in Parliament of Mr. George Bankes, and several other honourable members.

2. Game, becoming common live stock property, will, in course, be subject to the general laws of property, whilst within the proprietor's inclosures. Sir William Elford recommends the rule, that, "Game is the property of the owner of the soil on which it may be found resting, between the rising and the setting of the sun."

3. As *feræ naturæ*, upon the Wastes and Commons, Game to be deemed like other wild animals, the common property, with the exception of Deer, which may be herded and marked.

4. Lords of Manors to retain the power of establishing preserves of Game, upon the Wastes and Commons, within the said Manors, to an equitable extent, which may satisfy their own private convenience or profit, and not trespass too deeply upon the rights and convenience of others, who possess an interest in the said Wastes; or on the rights of the public at large.

5. The regulations of the Seasons for the Pursuit of Game, and its Prevention by Night, to remain in force.

ELUCIDATIONS.

It is humbly conceived that the whole body of legislation, which can possibly be necessary in the case, might be grounded upon the above five propositions, its sense expressed, and its members technically arranged, in a very short and unembarrassing statute. How those might be satisfied, who have particular views for the preservation of antiquated legal absurdities; of laws, rules, restrictions, regulations, heaped *stratum super stratum*, like packages in old forgotten lumber chests—of anomalies, repetitions, contradictions, and all the useless duplicity, equivocation, and chicane, of spurious and superfluous legislation, is another and extraneous matter.

The above regulations will require neither qualifications nor licenses, and the loss to the Treasury of the annual sum raised by Game Licenses, might full as well be levied in some other mode. In good sooth, it is but a sorry fiscal, if not a farcical expedient, to make a man pay for a license to do that which he had previously a just natural right to do. There is, however, much humour and much wit in all fiscal projection, notwithstanding the *gens de moyens*, its inventors, are in general

esteemed grave and solid matter-of-fact men. But the matter of licenses forms no fundamental point in the question of reform, and may well remain for the gratification of both licensors and licensed.

Proprietors, from a yard of land, upwards to five hundred thousand acres, will act, with respect to their game, as they are wont to do with any other species of property. The right to game in the tenantry, is purely an affair between them and their landlords, to the entire exclusion of any other intermeddlers whomsoever. Granting no subsisting agreement in the case, the right to the game upon the farm or estate, necessarily vests in the tenant.

No man can come upon the lands of another to kill game, but with the permission of the proprietor, obtained by free gift or purchase. The practice of purchasing such license, it is apprehended, has long been sufficiently familiar.

The same of Hunting, which ought not to be pursued in a cultivated country, to the destruction of private property and public subsistence. Indeed the laws at present in force are of this tenor; and, according to Mr. Heath, in his address to the jury, in a late case, it has been ruled by Lord Ellenborough, that no man has a right to hunt upon the lands of another without permission. The enjoyment of this, as of other Sports, may be matter of convention between proprietors and non-proprietors. In fact, the utmost encouragement ought to be given to the settlement of all minor difficulties, by agreement

among the parties, a thing always most practicable in the absence of redundant legislation.

The greatest stumbling-block, it may be readily conceived, will be the case of the lowest class, or labourers; that unfortunate class, and I shall here venture a solitary remark on the subject, which is now, fashionably as it should seem, the perpetual object of real libel. It may appear a strange proposition to the mere pupils of custom, that labourers should be entrusted with arms for sporting purposes; yet, were the question argued on the ground of right, a negation would not be easily proved. In both simple and political truth, one man has just as good a right as another, to either a coach or a gun, provided he can purchase, and honestly pay for it. Another question, and I shall hasten over the tender ground, lest it sink with my weight—are honest, regular, and industrious labourers to have no recreations, nor any choice in them, in a land where laws are boasted, as equal between the peasant and the prince?

Under an improved and equitable system there could be no more poachers; such would be changed into real thieves and robbers, and should be rigidly and unceasingly prosecuted. The motive for poaching would gradually and entirely cease. A vast competition would entirely extinguish that trade. It should be recollected, that poachers have but two objects, the chief of which is profit from the sale of the game; some few of them are impelled by a natural propensity to sporting: with

respect to game as food, or as a luxury, the upper classes have no rivalry to dread in the lower, since all who know the latter will vouch, that a *gout* for this species of luxury, is an utter stranger among them. Game, indeed, without the aid of expensive trimmings, would prove but an insipid viand. In fine, a liberal and equitable system with respect to the lower orders, would, in all probability, be so satisfactory and conciliating, as to do away the necessity of restriction and intimidation. The obligation of constant labour will sufficiently abate the desire of amusements no longer productive.

It has been seriously urged, that a general license to kill, or property in Game, must tend to its entire destruction, and the need of importation. The same might, with equal rationality, have been predicted of mutton or potatoes. Should, indeed, the relish for game leave us, farewell to game, and no loss; but beyond all doubt, the greater the demand and consumption of attainable things, in a commercial and highly-civilized state, the greater will be the supply; and as to importation, they who are fond of the law and regulation manufactory, may either admit or restrain it, as the impelling animal may chance to bite. There is such plenty of Game in France, that were an import of it hither allowed, we should soon have that article in our markets at a cheaper rate than it can be grown in this country; and the temporary clamour, some years since, made in France, on the destruction of the Game, it is said, proceeded chiefly from a party

which meditated to embrace, in their opinion, a proper opportunity for the restoration of the Game Laws. The unrestricted sale or commerce in Game, would be a proper indemnification to the country, for the immense quantities it consumes of the public provision.

The clandestine destruction of Game, for which, under the present system, there are but too many plausible pretences, could have no motive under general and equitable laws. We do not aim to eradicate or diminish a valuable commodity, which we may possess, purchase, or sell at pleasure; and should some holders of land decline to keep Game, that would be an additional inducement for its preservation with others.

The higher orders only of the landed Aristocracy, can be said to lose any thing by the generally desired change: their loss will be, of the jealousy and too frequent hatred of their inferiors, and of the power of committing dangerous acts of tyranny. Of RIGHTS, it is not required that they should lose any. A boundless scope and convenience for sporting will remain with them, together with that lawful superiority and those paramount advantages, which naturally attach to superior possessions. Indeed it will be no longer in any man's power to ruin a poor tenant, or poor labourer and family, for the sake of a hare or a partridge. Game will be no longer of more value than justice or mercy, in the mart of morality. There will be no longer any truth, or point, in verses like the following.

Ye Sov'reigns of Manors, in verse,
Dull prose will dishonour your name,
The Muse shall your triumphs rehearse,
High sounding the laws of the Game.

The Farmer your Sport shall supply,
Your Beagles his fences shall break;
But "touch not and taste not," you cry,
The law will its talons awake.

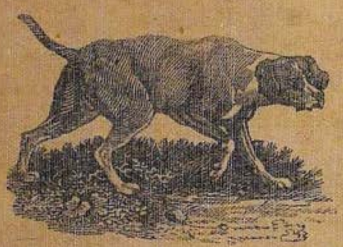
One Hundred a Year gives a right
To challenge all nature your own;
Fall short of the sum but a mite,
And your Ninety-nine Pounds are as none.

Hare, Partridge, or Pheasant who eat,
There's law too for filching the Flood,
Without a permit for his meat,
Five Pounds shall be squeezed from his blood.

Vexations, and suits, and a Jail,
The unqualified Gun shall chastise:
Informers but swear to your tale,
And richly be paid for your lies.

For His Majesty's Service we'll press
The Felon who steals but a Hare,
For his Brats the whole Parish assess:
All Poachers and Anglers BEWARE!

The ANGLERS.



Eng[illegible] from a Painting by J. Barrenger. Published by She[illegible] Neely & Jones Paternoster Row Jan 1 18[illegible]

GOING OUT.

SHOOTING.

Shooting is indisputably intituled to the first rank among our Field Sports, as most in use, occupying the greater number of Sportsmen, of easiest access, and most productive of profit, if not of that high and enthusiastic degree of pleasurable gratification afforded by the Chase. The Gun has, in course, its decided advocates, who prefer the exercise and the pleasure it affords, to those of any other sport. In this, as in other respects, nature has wisely diversified, or rather, it is a necessary result—all human appetites; some men giving a preference to Shooting, others to Hunting the Fox, the Deer, or to Coursing the Hare; some to the diversion and business of the Turf, and many or most choose to partake of each in its turn, as the season or occasion present; each still pre-

serving and adhering to his peculiar bias. To bodily and mental health, rural Sports are equally conducive; bracing, invigorating, and purifying the whole animal system, imparting the full tone of health and vigour to both body and mind, or re-covering it when lost. But the benefits of rural diversion in general, cannot be more energetically described, than by the following extract from the curious Publication on Hunting, of a Country Squire of our great grandfathers days, with which we shall have a little farther business anon.

"A man that eats and drinks like an English-man, and uses no labour, renders above half his muscles useless, his joints turn like old rusty hinges, his glands and strainers are loaded and obstructed with dregs and corruption; his whole carcase becomes a bog or quagmire, and nothing but the Gout, or some such distemper, can be hoped for to his relief, to drain the crudities and stagnant humours, and prolong a painful useless life. 'Tis possible, I confess, for some, who have naturally strong constitutions, to reprieve themselves a while, by periodical bleeding, purging, blistering, vomiting, and issues, *quantum sufficit* (these my honest Parson, a great joker, though very sober and ortho-dox, calls the exercises of the three great C's, Cities, Colleges, and Cathedrals); but how loath-some and detestable is such artificial filthiness! how horrid is the course of driving the excrements through unnatural channels! How foggy, un-wieldy, phtisicky, and helpless are such mortals,

when the affairs of their families, or the service of their country demand their application! nay, what a sluggish, splenetic, effeminate, stupid posterity may be justly expected from such rotten sources! 'Tis no wonder so many of our ancient families are extinct, or degenerated into pigmies or milk-sops; what would be the case, if the decayed blood were not now and then recruited by a jolly, sanguine Country Heiress; or did not the wise ladies providently mend the breed of their families, by the wholesome succour of a well-built attendant?

> "Better to Sport in Fields for health unbought,
> Than fee the Doctor for a nauseous draught."

But on the subject of the GUN, no topic ought to take precedence of the perpetual and dangerous accidents to which its use is liable, whether from stupid and profligate carelessness, or that venial absence of thought, to which the most careful persons are occasionally liable. And here, the writer wishes most impressively to bespeak the liveliest attention of his readers, for whose safety and happiness he ought in duty to be, and really feels himself, deeply interested. In going out with the gun, let the Sportsman, amid his flow of spirits and high-raised expectation of delight from his favourite diversion, make this most serious and useful reflection:—*I am going in search of health and pleasure; but from that very instrument, through the use of which I expect both, may result pain and decrepitude, and even*

death itself! or those penalties I may inflict upon a stranger, a son, a brother, or a friend!

It will be excusable, it is hoped, in this view, to present to the recollection of the Sportman, and indeed to every man who takes a gun in hand, some of the most probable, and the most usually occurrent accidents; against which every gunner should, as an indispensable duty to himself and others, prime and charge his memory, together with some of the most needful cautions: VIDELICET—*the bursting of a barrel from original unsoundness, improper usage, or overcharge; the danger of carrying a piece cocked in company, more especially in passing a hedge, and leaping a ditch; the muzzle of a cocked gun to be invariably presented upwards, in the air; additional care in this respect required with double barrels; caution as to the state of the barrel in loading after repeated firings, or the gun being cocked whilst loading; as to firing through a hedge, and the possibility of some person being on the other side; or firing eagerly in the direction of some one in company, or casual passenger, or in the case of a number of shooters in various directions; accidents by night in Wild Fowl Shooting, from random shot and opposite gunners; beware of incautious companions: a constant experienced eye necessary upon very young Sportsmen; in drawing the charge see the gun be not cocked—if an old common lock, not upon the half cock; danger of hastily putting down loaded arms, in the reach of strangers or children, or of laying up loaded arms within*

common reach; the same of powder, and in drying it incautiously by the fire, and within the reach of a large quantity: risk of an accidental spark to an uncovered powder-flask—or to the priming, in hammering a flint: to these may be with propriety subjoined, and for humanity's sake, a memento, not to put into the hands of boys, whose business it is to watch birds in the fields, old rusty barrels, by the bursting of which the poor labourer may be rendered useless for life: not forgetting the idle fellows annually to be met with, in the environs of the Metropolis, on the approach of the Shooting Season, armed with ancient pieces, almost equally prepared for a discharge upon the half, or full cock, and ever held in the horizontal direction, thence admirably calculated for a point blank volley at the midships of the opposite passenger.

Frigid cautions like these, may be disregarded, and even despised by many, filled with youthful blood, and glowing with enthusiasm in the pursuit of pleasure, as vitiating its very essence, occupying the mind with care instead of joy, and counteracting the very intent and purpose of sport. It has been said by many horsemen, that the constant care of holding a horse to prevent his falling, is destructive of the pleasure of that noble exercise. These are no doubt very plausible, if not potent arguments; yet some kind of reply may be put in, not altogether irrelevant; *exempli gratia*—suppose a heedless Gunner, or a Horseman who unconcernedly committed all the prudentials of the case

to the care of his horse, should the one for his no care obtain the prize of a shattered arm, and the other of a broken leg, is it not probable that, both the one and the other, whilst under the hands of the surgeon, might incline to confess, that they had better have been more careful? Generally, the price of safety is care and circumspection, and if we would go to market for the commodity, we must carry its reputed worth ready in our hands, for in that market there is no trust. The accidents within contemplation here, are such as may be avoided by even a moderate share of circumspection, in no wise detracting from real pleasure, but rather a relief to its ardent and too violent impetuosity; and may be acquired, at first indeed, with some labour, but thereafter a settled, and as it were instinctive and spontaneous habit will gradually result, which, with a little occasional encouragement, will endure through life—a rule, in fact, applicable to every circumstance in life. Unavoidable accidents, which defy and set at nought all human cautions, there necessarily must be; but those are as properly extraneous to the solicitude of every brave soul, as these of the present description are within it. Annual totals of the accidents from guns and gunpowder in England, displayed at one view, would surely impress the most indifferent mind with some degree of astonishment, and elicit the acknowledgment, that, at least, some additional grains of caution are necessary. In the front of such a disheartening list, would stand the

case of that fatal and stoical Sportsman, a Suffolk farmer, who about sixty years since, at one shoot, with a shore gun, shot both his father and mother stone dead! and in about six months afterwards, was seen very composedly amusing himself by shooting with the same gun! Let the device of the true Sportsman henceforth be—*Cavendo Tutus.*

The force of exploding powder and the fatal tube—

> The thundering blast, imitative of Heaven's thunder,

are amongst the most curious and important of human discoveries; probably amongst the best, since nature has decreed, that the work of destruction must of necessity go on, either for human supply or defence. In the early ages, and by savage nations, missiles of all kinds have been in use, for the needful destruction of wild animals; slings, darts, bows and arrows, have sufficed for that purpose; and as lately as the reign of Elizabeth, in this country, we find that the Cross Bow held its ground in the Sports of the Field. No other implement, however, it is sufficiently obvious, could stand any long competition with the Gun, more especially when the match was superceded by the striking Cock. This, perhaps, brought the gun as near to perfection, in principle, as it can ever reach, the only remaining *desideratum* being practical improvement; which, in its turn, and in these latter times, and in this country, seems also to have nearly attained its summit.

Improvement too, in the practice of Gunnery, as well as in the fabrication of Guns, must necessarily have taken place among us of late years, from a variety of evident causes; yet in one or two respects, this opinion may have been overstrained. For instance, it has been advanced by several of our Sporting Writers that, to shoot flying, is almost a novelty, and that the practice is scarcely above thirty or forty years old. I can only say, that no such fact tallies with my recollection, which extends to a retrospect of about five and fifty years; for I was a very young attendant at Shooting Parties, and partial to the use of the Gun, although, for causes not necessary to detail, I never attained any eminence as a Shot. At the period referred to, all Sportsmen within the narrow circle of my view, were accustomed to shoot flying, precisely as their successors now are; and he would, at that time, have been viewed as a sorry Sportsman indeed, who should have gone into the field only to aim at sitting marks. No such drivelling practice was even dreamed of; and there were then, as now, Keepers, and other capital Marksmen, who would bring down their small bird, at fifty or sixty yards, with almost unerring aim. For my part, I can have no idea of the period in our Sporting Annals, when, to shoot flying with the gun, was an uncommon attempt; at least, within that period in which locks upon the present principle have been in use. Double-barrels were also used by a few curious persons at the period referred to. My early initia-

tion into the toils, and pleasures, and mysteries of the field, was under the auspices of an old drunken 'Squire, of the most vulgar type, and a very ordinary Sportsman. His bawling and provincial dialect are even now fresh in my ears—"So Haow!" and "Buoy! ha' yaou fed them there Grunes?" so, greyhound was then and there pronounced. Our plan extended to Shooting, both Field and Shore, Coursing, and Ferreting Rabbits: Hunting of any kind, very seldom came within the circle of its operations.

THE GUN.

To Shoot is a most enticing mode of diversion, extremely flattering to human ambition, in respect to the skill which may be acquired, and the power over distant objects thereby conferred. It is confined, in our own country, to the male sex; but in Germany, perhaps some parts of Italy, the ladies participate in this interesting sport, and are proud of their skill in firing at the Target. But the first thing with which we have to equip our Sportsman is a Gun; the articles to follow—Powder and Shot, and all needful accoutrements; lastly, instructions for their adroit and profitable use.

The Sporting Arms in present use, are, the common Fowling Piece, the Double-Barrel, and the long Shore, or Duck Gun. The short

barrel for Partridge and Pheasant Shooting, has been sometimes supposed a late attempt at improvement, which however is not the case, since there were a few such in use more than half a century since, when no doubt it was the custom to prefer longer barrels than at present. Short guns have their convenience; they are of light and easy carriage, and extremely handy in making way through woods and thickets; and it is averred, indeed seems to have been proved, that they are upon an equality with the longest bird guns in use, as to the distance at which they will do execution. The present writer, in his youth, shot with a two feet barrel, then an old gun, by a famous maker, and warranted to kill at fourscore yards!—which it certainly never performed, nor was it equal, in that respect, to the common three and four feet barrels, at that time in fashion. It is supposed that, the most correct aim cannot be taken with a short barrel, but habit will do much.

For safety, for convenience, for elegance sake, a Sportsman ought to commence his career with a good Gun: it is then a prime consideration, where he shall obtain so necessary an article, and how much, in *Banco Regis*, or in hard Sovereigns, is a just and proper recompense for it. This leads us immediately to an estimate of the real value of modern improvements, upon the ground of which such very considerable prices have been hypothecated. On this point it may be said, in few words, and with real truth, that very considerable improve-

ments have been made by ingenious and eminent mechanics in the fowling-piece, and more particularly with respect to the lock; but with equal truth, a consequence to be expected, that much tampering and various fashionable alterations have also taken place, the object of which has been, plainly enough, rather a pretence to raise price, than an honest endeavour to promote utility. The excessive high prices given for guns, and other capital, but attainable articles, have their motives invariably, in fashionable vanity, or excessive and unconquerable eagerness to possess an article of fancied or warranted excellence. No artificer can be reasonably blamed for setting the highest price he prudently can, upon a specimen of his art, which has cost him great exertions to improve. It is in the fair spirit of trade, against the reverses of which it behoves a man to arm himself, by feathering his nest with all good speed. But after all which can be advanced upon the subject, a Sportsman who does not aim at being flash, or making the play in this line, is just as probable to bring down an equal number of birds in a season, with a gun of the price of twenty, or even ten guineas, as with that high-named and far-famed double KILL DEVIL, for which one hundred guineas have been demanded and paid. A late noble Lord said to a tenant of his, a yeoman of small estate, who had often the honour to accompany his lordship in the field, "Why, Thomas, how happens it, that you can

kill your birds at more certainty than any one among us, with that plain old firelock of yours, when many of us go to the price of sixty guineas, and upwards for our guns?" "Plainly, my Lord, replied Thomas (Mr. G.), because a good gun is a good gun, whether it cost a hundred guineas, or three pounds ten shillings." G.'s gun, it seems, cost him exactly the latter sum.

A very useful new Gun may be PURCHASED in most of the County Towns, at a moderate price. But a Sportsman, who is ambitious of going to the fountain head of excellence and stylish elegance, will in course, make his application to one of the eminent London Makers, of whom there may be half a dozen to a dozen, and who are too well known to need a nomination here. But should the purchaser be economical as well as ambitious, he may have recourse to the well-established Repository of friend Wilson, in Vigo Lane, where he may chance to find a new MORTIMER, MANTON, EGG, or NOCK, at a second hand price; because, be it known to all whom it may concern, our worthy friend Wilson aforesaid, stands UNCLE general to all those who may, from existing circumstances, stand in need of such a relative. Such was my plan of purchase, for the use of myself and friends, before I had heard of Mr. Wilson, as there were always in London, plenty of guns on sale; but not wishing to rely on my own judgment entirely, I allowed a commission to a labouring gun-smith, who was a

good judge of his art, and whom I had previously known in the country to be a good shot. The plan may be safely recommended. Mr. John Cuff, at the Warehouse for all sorts of Fire Arms, in New Bond Street, conducted the business of the late Mr. Wilson, many years, and deals upon a similar plan, with respect to the cheapness of his articles.

In describing the Gun here, it would be of far more curiosity than use, to enter into all minute particulars, with a mechanical precision, and to dissect the barrel, lock, stock, and ornaments into the whole of their component parts. The bare enumeration would be of little use, and about as much may be said of written instructions to perform certain delicate operations of the gun-smith's art—better, indeed, always left to the artist; but should any gentleman desire to become an adept to that degree, his only effectual plan is, to take a sufficient number of practical lessons from one of the craft. It is yet necessary, for a Sportsman to be conversant in all the essentials relative to his arms, and for himself, as well as his servant, to be able adroitly and expeditiously, to unscrew and screw, remove and replace, all those parts necessary to be removed, in cleaning the lock or barrel, or in the event of any common accident or derangement.

The Gun Barrels of Spain, fabricated from long worn iron, such as the nails of old shoes of mules and horses, have been always in the highest estimation, the Spanish iron itself bearing a superior character. The Manufactory of Fire Arms at

Versailles, during the Consulship of Buonaparte, attained the highest degree of celebrity; and the articles, elabourated at unbounded expense of time, and skill, and material, were sold at unprecedented prices; for example, from some hundreds to a thousand pounds, for a Gun: Pistols at prices in proportion. The London twisted Barrel of *stub* iron, thoroughly hammered, and proved to be superior to steel and every other material, has, of late years, been universally esteemed equal, if not superior, to the best Spanish Barrel; and with respect to improvements of the cock, and the general finish of the piece, no foreign manufactory takes precedence of the English.

The Soundness of the Barrel is plainly of the first consideration. Every one knows, that the barrels of all fire arms are professedly Proved, to qualify them for use or sale; namely, with a single or double charge. Gunners also know too well, and many to their cost, that barrels wearing the regular proof stamp, have burst. On which account, a purchaser must rely upon the integrity of the artist who supplies him; and it behoves him equally, to put a casual purchase into competent mechanical hands, in order to due examination. The only certain method of proof, it is averred, by that celebrated London Maker, Mr. Joseph Manton, is by Water-proving, in addition to the usual method; and he was formerly, and may be yet, the only maker who uses the additional trial. Charging with several inches of rammed clay, in-

stead of shot, has been proposed, and probably practised on the Continént, as a trial; but it appears to be a superfluous risk, which few barrels would endure and remain whole. There seems, however, to be a glorious certainty, as well as uncertainty, in regard to the solidity of Gun Barrels, and the accidents which may occasion their disruption; as may be found in a late number of Dr. Thompson's Annals, where an account is given of a musket barrel accidentally bent into the form of a bow, from which charges were fired a great number of times, without any ill effect. The causes of unsoundness are, insufficient substance at the breech, and flaws of any kind in the internal surface of the tube: in Double-Barrelled Guns, when the substance of each barrel is filed away, in order to their union, which is effected by a solder of lead and tin;—to insure safety, the barrels should be each round and entire, and without any filing away of substance at the breech. Double Guns particularly require substance of iron, whence the barrels should never be long or top heavy, on account of their necessarily additional weight.

The original BREECHING of the barrel, was simply a pin or plug, screwed into the inferior end, and forming the bottom of the tube, with which the touch-hole communicates. This mode has been changed of late years, by various artists, and it is said, with some improvement in respect to quickness of explosion, by the pan being posited nearer to the charge, which also lies in a more compact

and round position, whence it is all instantaneously fired, leaving no relics behind, and it is said, projecting the shot with additional force. The old breech-pin is no doubt perfectly efficacious; fashion, however, and perhaps real improvement, have declared in favour of various new forms, as Nock's solid breeching, and several others. The prevalent and most useful colour for Gun Barrels is brown. The TOUCH-HOLE, now never seen so large as in the old guns, is either of gold or platina; the latter metal, I believe, was first introduced for this purpose, by Mr. Joseph Manton, and stands the action of fire better than gold.

The excellence of a LOCK, whether of the elegant and improved, or of the common sort, depends upon a just balance in its springs, between too great force and stiffness and too much facility; and the same may be said of the action of the TRIGGER; this effect, however, may be better felt in practice than described. The Lock PLATE should be sufficiently substantial, to secure it from yielding. The attempts to render locks WATER-PROOF, have not yet succeeded, nor probably ever will. Mr. Joseph Manton's GRAVITATING STOPS, acting spontaneously, are said to insure against accidents from Double Guns whilst cocked; but these stops require constant cleanliness, with respect to dirt or rust beneath them, which prevent their falling, and destroy their effect. The SOLID COCK, which falls on its end, instead of being stopped in the middle, by the lock plate, is said to be intituled to a

preference. The HAMMER must be of a mean temper, neither so hard that a flint will make too slight an impression, nor soft like lead, whence sparks will be elicited with uncertainty. If old, or defective, it may be rendered perfect by new steeling. Farther remarks will be made on the subject of the barrel, in describing its use.

GUN STOCKS are chiefly made of walnut tree wood, the but capped with horn; ash is also used for the purpose, and occasionally maple. Curious Sportsmen, in ordering a gun, give precise directions with respect to the length, curve, and tapering of a stock; this, however, depends materially on the form to which they have previously accustomed themselves, as to the straightness or bend of a stock. The long stock has certainly two advantages; there is less danger in case the barrel should burst, and the explosion of the priming is at the greater distance from the eyes. A piece should be well BALANCED with sufficient weight at the shoulder; but should the butt be over-loaded, the inconvenience will be felt in a long day. A proper equilibrium will be ascertained, by laying the gun flat on the left hand, with the end of the feather and spring half an inch from the little finger. The RAMROD is now generally furnished with a screw or worm, similar to that of the solid cork-screw, having a brass cap. This worm is most certain in drawing any kind of wadding. The CHEEK-PIECE, as a defence, and the *Scrollguard* are said to have had few admirers.

POWDER AND SHOT.

It would be of little use to the Sportsman, to copy a description of the composition and manufacture of Gunpowder, since his business is not to make, but purchase it; as little would it be, to give a list of the names of the manufacturers, each and every of whom makes as good powder, as can possibly be wanted in the field; and the differences between the articles of one and other maker, so gravely descanted on, and settled by connoisseurs, are laughable in exact proportion to their gravity. All that can be necessary in the present case is, to purchase powder of a trader of good repute, and to preserve it afterwards with due care. It is evidently matter of prudence, not to keep a larger quantity of gunpowder in the house, than is absolutely necessary, in proportion to the consumption. I have seldom had occasion to dry powder, mine always having been preserved in tin, in a perfectly dry closet, the key ever in my own safe keeping. The best method of drying gunpowder is in a dish, set over boiling water, totally away from any fire. It ought to be a sacred rule, never to bring quantities of gunpowder near fire or candle. There have been various nostrums, pretending almost to double the force of the explosion of powder; the most celebrated of which was by the addition of quick lime;

but although this method has been published a great number of years, its utility has unfortunately remained unknown to all but its original author. The Greek Fire, so celebrated and so dreaded in ancient times, was, in all probability, the mother or grandmother of gunpowder.

Of SHOT, more will be said in treating of the use of the Gun. A good Gunner will do execution, whether he use the common or the patent shot, which last, it is said, although I could never observe the fact, are apt to hasten the putrefactive process in the game killed by them, from the quantity of copperas which they contain. Some few persons prefer unglazed shot, or oil their shot, with a view to prevent the barrel from being leaded; but I have not hitherto been convinced of the reality of the supposed effect. Transparent, black Norfolk, or Brandon FLINTS, are among the best, or those of a hard white stone, and of such the Gunner should provide himself with good store; for to be sparing of flints is to be accessary to his own loss of time and vexation. Fix your flint with the flat side upwards, screwing it in with leather, and observe that it stand sufficiently clear of the hammer. Spruce Gunners provide themselves with a punch, to stamp their flint leathers, which they change as often as their flints. It is a useful observation of that true and thorough-bred Sportsman, Mr. Hawker, that, "to make a flint strike *lower*, you have only to reverse the usual way of putting it in; but if you want it

to strike *higher*, you must either put a *very thick leather*, or screw the flint in with a bit of something under it."

Leather-cutters' roundings and old hat make the best and safest WADDING, and preferable to pasteboard, and the larger the calibre or bore, the thicker should be the wadding. The common wadding of brown paper is the next best. The cap of the ramrod should be sufficiently broad, to prevent the wad from turning in the barrel. To punch wadding, and fit it to the bore of the gun, a block of any hard wood is the proper convenience.

TRIAL OF THE GUN, in order to purchase.—The present writer has always perceived much similarity between the trial of guns and horses; and in both cases, a *Tyro* may find only a trial of his credulity; for which reason, he should ever be attended in both, with a capable practical assistant. The barrel must first be detached from the stock, and examined internally, to detect any *crack*, *flaw*, or *chink*, which, if not immediately dangerous, will always, in course, become the worse for wear, and the corrosion of impurities constantly forming lodgements therein. The lock and furniture being satisfactory, and the handling of the piece agreeable to the feelings of the purchaser, it remains to try it by firing ten or a dozen times at a mark, with various shot. A quire of the thickest brown paper is the proper mark, a fresh sheet being placed in front, and another fresh sheet behind it, for every shot. A calm day is the properest for the

trial. Suppose the piece two feet six or eight in barrel, of high pretension, and considerable price, try it at fourscore yards, with mixed shot, No. 4 and 7, and at forty yards with the same charge: also at forty or fifty yards, with No. 4; and at fifty and sixty yards, with No. 8 and 9. By such shots, or any other variations which may be approved, it will appear with what force the shots are propelled, and how they are carried with respect to closeness or spreading, a medium between which is of most efficacy. Closeness and force are, however, the attributes of superior pieces, and a sufficient range or spread may always be obtained from the use of small shot; whereas, the remedy, if any, is not so easy for the defect of too great a range or scattering of the shot, by which, in consequence, their force must be reduced. This last defect may be more plainly observed by shooting over water.

The Recoil, in the vulgar tongue *kick*, of a good piece, fully charged, will be smart; but ought not to be too heavy, or to give an alarming shock, which will depend on the internal form of the barrel, or on incidental circumstances. The chief causes of too heavy a recoil, are, inequality in the bore, by which the exit of the shot is impeded, or a cavity in the breech plug; too great a weight of lead for the charge of powder, or too hard ramming; foulness from repeated firings, and it is generally supposed, the stock being straight, curvature having the effect of reducing and easing the shock. Holding the gun too loosely to the shoulder, by

consequence, increases the effect of the recoil. Exclusive of a barrel being forged of bad materials, or insufficient substance, the incidental causes of BURSTING are—foulness with an old charge; a quantity of earth or snow entering the barrel, in the passage over hilly and irregular land or banks; a vacuum left between the powder and shot, from the latter being carelessly rammed down, in which space, the exploding force of the powder, on discharge, will be dangerously condensed. A barrel will also burst, if the gun be fired with the muzzle thrust an inch or two into water.

One of the first qualities of a GUN BARREL is, the internal smoothness and equality of the bore, both with regard to the safety and excellence of the piece. This is usually proved by pushing down with moderate force, a ramrod, on which has been cast a piece of lead, or with a musket-ball attached, made exactly fitted to the calibre. The lead passing down easily and smoothly, and without impediment, indicates the equality and truth of the bore. The straight line, or perfectly cylindrical internal form, seems to have been the original idea; but modern gun-smiths, in the ardour of their attempts at improvement, have varied the calibre of their barrels in different parts, as either judgment or fancy may have suggested; some making it wider towards the breech, others in the centre, or nearly at the muzzle. In former days, the wide, or bell-shaped muzzles were much in use.

On the other hand, it was, at one period, the

general opinion, that the gradual compression of the calibre from the muzzle to the breech, contributed to increase the projectile force of the charge. In an abstract view, this notion appears highly absurd, since weight—and obstruction must operate proportionably in a similar way, is known practically to reduce the force of the explosion, as the weight of shot may be made too heavy for the quantity of powder. Of the different modes of widening certain parts of the bore, I can form no favourable opinion, either from reason or practical observation; I apprehend the desideratum to be, a perfectly rectilinear direction for the course of the charge, and that only. Perhaps, also, there is full as much refinement, as reality, in the presumed efficacy of those local variations of the pan and the touch-hole, which fashion has introduced, and the consequent quicker and more perfect ignition of the powder. As to the ignition, at whatever part of the charge of powder it may take place, the difference, in point of time, can scarcely be perceptible or calculable; and I apprehend, that, compressed as a charge of powder is in a gun barrel, if once ignition take place, every grain of the charge must of necessity explode, granting the powder to be good, and capable of inflammation.

The following observations on this branch of our subject, are extracted from the late Work of a Sportsman of very long experience, and well known to the public—General George Hanger, Lord Coleraine. "He who can bore a barrel

nearest to a perfect cylinder, provided the iron be soft, mild, and expansive, will make a perfect barrel, which will shoot strong and well. Respecting the Breech-Plugs, several of which wear the pompous name of patent plugs, I believe many of them are very good; but I can assure the reader, that a plug, made in the following simple method, will make a gun shoot as strong, as any one of those pompous patent plugs, which you are assured will work wonders, but will not do more than the simple plug—which any blacksmith can make." On the Weight of barrels, and its effect, the General says, "If one barrel weighs only three pounds and a half, and another four pounds and a half, the latter will carry a larger charge, shoot stronger, and having more resistance, from its superior weight, will not strike the shoulder more than the lighter barrel with a smaller charge."

"Respecting Locks, every year some new trick is held out to induce us to believe, that they can make the guns shoot quicker. A simple plain lock, well made, with main-spring and hammer-spring, acting with a due and proper resistance to each other, will go off quick enough for my use. I have none of their new tricks and vagaries to my locks, and I find them act quick and well. One gun-maker bores a hole in the lock *here*, another *there*, in another part: both assure you that, from this, the gun will be fired quicker, and that it is a wonderful improvement; for which they charge you from three to five guineas extra. The only

wonderful improvement I know that they possess, is—improving the price.

"Now the Elevation-Ribs, so much in fashion: they undoubtedly elevate the gun, by which you throw the centre of the shot to a greater distance; but if a Sportsman will have his gun stocked very straight, when first made, this will have the same effect as the elevation-rib, and he will save three or four guineas expense."

It would answer no useful purpose to dilate farther on the topic of the various improvements in the fowling piece, or on the lock; of their separate utility, there is only one way becoming convinced, which is, by actual trial; and a purchaser will always find ready information at the different makers. On this account, it is merely necessary to name Forsyth's patent lock, and the Fulminating Lock. With respect to Gold Pans, they undoubtedly make a shew in the Armouries or the Cabinets of the opulent and curious. The Octagonal Breech has an elegant and sightly appearance, but is said, by Mr. Thomas, and it appears justly, that such form adds to the weight, but not to the strength of the barrel. The sight upon the barrel, is in itself a thing of small consequence, and no matter how small it be in substance,

LOADING THE PIECE.

As a general practice, the CHARGE may be one third more of shot, by *measure*, than of powder, according to the measure used. Mr. Daniel says, that the Wild Fowl Shooters, who fire at great lengths, always use equal quantities, that is to say, measures, of powder and shot; but I have generally observed them to make some addition to the charge of shot; perhaps a *stricken* measure of powder, and a heaped one, or bumper of shot, form a good and universal rule. To overload with shot, is only to cause your piece to scatter them, detracting from the force of the point blank and effective, and rendering a great portion of the scattered, as harmless as sugar plums. Ignorant and random shooters generally expect to perform great exploits by heavy and superfluous charging, but the chief advantage, if that be any, which they obtain, is a thundering recoil to prove their own bodily stability. If the object be to kill at the greatest possible distances, the properest mean is by an increase of the size of the shot, and with the regular charge, that having been previously ascertained by trials; with the recollection that, if any

change be made in the quantity of shot, it ought to be a decrease.

The most convenient SIZED gun for general use in the field, is two feet eight inches in length of the barrel, and of a fifteen guage in the calibre: if a double barrelled gun, two feet six in length, and of an eighteen guage. The double gun will generally weigh six pounds three quarters; but if the barrels be round and entire, they ought, and often will weigh considerably more. The single gun will weigh about five pounds three quarters, to six pounds, and will carry two drachms and a half of powder, and two ounces one quarter of shot. The double barrels may be each loaded with two drachms of powder, and one ounce and a half of shot. This proportion may be *doubled* for a twelve pound gun, *trippled* for one of eighteen pounds, *quadrupled* for one of twenty-four, and so on, in proportion to weight of metal; and the larger the barrel, the greater care is necessary not to increase the proportion of shot, as the larger and longer the barrel, the more powder may adhere, and be wasted in charging. CHARGERS are things of course, from those of steel and horn, to that ancient measure for powder and shot, the common tobacco pipe.

The following is a common graduated scale of the number of pellets, which make an ounce of SHOT: Swan shot are largest, a very few of which will weigh an ounce.

			Pellets.
Average mould shot, to one ounce,		about	16
A	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	49
BB	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	58
B	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	70
No. 1	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	82
2	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	112
3	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	135
4	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	177
5	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	218
6	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	261
7	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	330
8	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	660
9	do. - - - - - - - -	do.	970

Lower than No. 9 may rank with dust shot. A is strongly recommended by Mr. Hawker as the best shot for Wild Fowl Shooting; No. 1, however, is often used for that purpose with great effect, when the shots are at a fair length. It has been already observed that No. 7, or mixed shot, are fittest for general use; but in case of shooting through thick wood, or on the expectation of long shots, No. 2 to 4 may be preferred. For another, and too often in these days a necessary use, General Hanger advises No. 2 and 3; namely, for Housebreakers and Thieves. A blunderbuss, loaded with Swan shot, may be a useful addition in that case.

In Charging the gun, the powder should not be rammed hard, but merely pressed into a round

or close body, upon which the wadding should sit just tight enough, to keep it in that position, and from being intermixed with the shot. The shot should by no means, be rammed down with that force, which some gunners use, under a very mistaken notion: the only certain result of which is, to produce a heavy recoil. The real use of ramming the shot is, to form it into a compact body, and preserve it from moving in the barrel. The head of the ramrod here, and the wadding, are articles of particular consequence; the latter must be well fitted to the bore of the piece, and so carefully rammed, that it may not *turn*, and in course let out the charge. After much shaking the gun in going over the land, it is proper to examine the state of the charge, and the priming. In loading, it is an ancient and general rule to prime first, unless the barrel be known to prime itself. If any necessity should compel a person to charge, and make use of an old, shattered, rusty gun and lock, let him break the general rule, and beware of priming first.

CLEANING THE GUN.

No gun should be used so often, that a crust of impurities remain upon the inside of the barrel and the pan; not only on account of the danger of bursting the barrel, but of the inconvenience of its hanging or missing fire. A gun ought certainly never to be fired more than twenty times, without being cleaned thoroughly. Even in the field, an opportunity presenting, it is proper to wipe the inside of the barrel, having been frequently fired, and the pan, with a piece of cloth, in preference to tow, from which DANGER may ensue; but on the charge being immediately wanted, let it be put in whilst the barrel is warm from the last discharge, and before the vapour becomes condensed and clammy upon the surface.

It is recommended first of all to wash the barrel, after it has been detached from the stock, with cold water, and afterwards with hot. I should apprehend, that, after rincing with cold water, soap suds, at a scalding heat, would be most efficacious in scouring off the impurities; another ablution of cold water to finish the operation. Pieces of soap may be put into the barrel, and shaken up and down with the hot water: fine sand also is used. One end of the iron cleaning-rod is generally furnished with scrapers. The muzzle

and touch-hole are stopped, in order to shake the water up and down in the barrel. In the conclusion, water will pass clear through those apertures. Look into the muzzle with the touch-hole held towards the light. The barrel must be rubbed thoroughly dry, inside and out; but perhaps it is better not to use oil to the inside. For the outside of the barrel and the lock, trotter oil is preferred; or neat's foot oil, clarified, will answer the purpose; but dry rubbing is of the greatest consequence, and whenever oil is used, it should be thoroughly rubbed off within twelve hours. If the breech be of that kind, that it can be readily, it always should be taken out.

Never to lay by a fowling-piece CHARGED, is a good rule; either draw the charge, or fire it off, and rub the barrel, lock, and pan dry, and clean the touch-hole, leaving the piece uncocked in its case. A gun left naked should have its muzzle corked, and touch-hole stopped.

The LOCK, as well as the barrel, being always put up dry, and kept perfectly clean, will not often need taking to pieces. When that shall, however, become necessary, every one who has been accustomed to handle a gun, will easily perceive the means of unscrewing a common lock, and detaching its parts. This is not quite so obvious or easy with regard to the improved locks, whence it is proper for the Sportsman, or his servant, to take a lesson, as has been before hinted, at the gun-maker's. It is customary with some, to boil a lock,

and when the opportunity presents, the boiling copper of the washerwoman's is most effectual. All impurities are in that mode perfectly eradicated, and the lock should be then rubbed thoroughly dry, oiled, and some hours subsequently, rubbed dry again. With respect to depositing guns in CASES, the usual mode, the woollen will frequently attract the damps of the situation, and arms so inclosed, will often be more liable to rust, than those which are exposed, but have the benefit of being aired. Perhaps leathern cases are preferable to woollen; but after thaws and damp weather, arms should be examined, and the cases dried.

In respect to travelling *with the letters*, upon a *Grousing* Expedition, I have observed the inconveniences which Mr. Hawker so feelingly describes, of getting the arms safely stowed in the coach. He recommends a sail-cloth case for the gun, and an additional one of oil skin; a short piece of wood just to fill up the hollow of the stock, made flat a-top, with loops to receive the bolts at bottom; the fitting place for the stock to be either wrapped up, or guarded by pasteboard, the lock itself being deposited in the portmanteau. After all these precautions, there is sometimes trouble in finding a secure place for these articles, in or upon the coach, which leads me to give a preference to a TRAVELLING GUN BOX, in which two or three guns may lie at length, like instruments in a surgeon's case, and a pair or two of pistols, together with all the necessary tools appertaining to the use of the gun,

between them. The box may be rendered waterproof by an oil-skin covering, or other means.

Little need be said on those well-known Sporting Appendages, the COPPER POWDER-FLASK, SHOT-BELT, and STEEL-CHARGER, any farther than that a Shooter may suit his own particular taste or convenience, at any of the shops open for the sale of such articles. I have only to observe, that I was somewhat surprised at reading repeated cautions on the probable danger from a spring powder flask, whilst charging the piece, being unable to recollect the time when *caps* to the powder horns, were not in use, and when the charge could not be safely detached from the mass of powder below.

THE SPORTING DRESS AND ITS CONCOMITANTS.

THE first consideration, in our variable climate, is defence against rheumatic attacks, which ultimately may occasion even the pleasures of the field, to be bought at too great a price; and against danger to the lower limbs, whilst passing hedge, ditch, wood, or waste, and the attacks of venomous reptiles. In point of general convenience, HALF BOOTS, which lace close, and have a sole as substantial as consists with good speed, and the safety of the ancle joints and back sinews, with trowsers

or over-alls, strongly defended within-side by leather, and thorn-proof, deserve a preference as lower attire. The sole and leather of the boots, should be varnished, and rendered water-proof. For the upper attire, there is no need to urge the use of flannel, so suited to our climate, since, at some periods, our young men have been accustomed to load and waistcoat themselves in the style of wasting jockeys. I entirely agree with the Sportsman lately quoted, on the proper materials for the SHOOTING JACKET—in the early and warm season, *jean*, *satteen*, or *nankeen*; for late Autumn and Winter, *fustian* or *velveteen* are to be chosen, the shooting waistcoat being made of the same stuff. Men, as the French say, *d'un certain age*, who would wish to guard against those exquisite comforts during a sleepless night, *lumbago* and *sciatica*, will not be offended at the caution, to have their winter jackets and waistcoats made long, as a defensive comfort to the loins. A SIDE POCKET next the heart, is with me, *a sine qua non*, being so convenient for wadding, and various small articles; and the large, or HARE-POCKET, should either be lined with oil-skin, which may be sponged, or that which is still more cleanly, have a thick lining, which may be taken out and washed. A copper wire, pendent from a button, should always be at hand, to clear the touch-hole; and generally, the Sportsman should go into the field, fully provided with all those little tools, which will readily occur to the memory, and which are indispensible

in cases of emergency, by no means forgetting a flask of the best Nantz, and biscuits.

The Shooting Horse. They who are as soon fatigued by walking, as the present writer, will readily appreciate the convenience of a good shooting Galloway or Poney, the material qualifications of which are as follow—to stand fire like a gate-post, and be a perfectly safe goer over all kinds of ground, particularly down hill; a good canterer and walker; a hardy and safe standing leaper; one that shys at nothing; that will follow readily, may be turned adrift, and easily caught again; fully master of the weight he has to carry, and with a good share of that common sense, apprehension, and steadiness about him, which is often to be found in brutes.

USE OF THE GUN.

The art of taking aim with any missile weapon, whether sling, dart, bow, or that grand modern improvement upon all those, the Gun, depends on two contingencies; natural adaptation in the gunner, and long and constant practice. The first is no doubt the paramount qualification, arising out of firmness of nerve, keenness of sight, and that glorious natural attribute, distinguished by the name of presence of mind. Endowed with

these, behold the natural genius of the Gun. These heaven-born Shooters, like our heaven-born Generals and Ministers of state, will always maintain their superiority over the mere industrious devotees to mechanical practice and experience. Thence we need no longer wonder at the extraordinary performances at long shots and single birds, and the repetition of almost unerring success, in ordinary fellows, armed perhaps, with an old rusty piece, of the worth of a few shillings. These natural qualities, predispositions if you please, are equally apparent and effectual, in every branch of rural sports, and in some of the serious occupations of the country. For example, in huntsmen, vermin catchers, trainers of dogs, and shepherds. A writer on rural affairs observes, that some boys and men have the peculiar faculty of finding a bird's nest, where others, not naturally gifted, have in vain searched, and pryed and searched again, with all their eyes, during a score of times. The former are the sort of persons for tracing and marking the game, and for the management of animals; they are the stuff of which are made the most accomplished keepers and shooters, grooms, huntsmen, whippers-in, earth-stoppers, and—poachers.

But in general, the lovers of the captivating amusement of the Gun, have nevertheless not the least reason to be discouraged, although sensible that they have not been so highly favoured by nature, as the adepts above described; since it needs only resolution and perseverance, in any person

capable of presenting his piece, to become, in due time, a good shot, at any object, either sitting, or upon the wing, to a sufficient degree of certainty, for every reasonable purpose of pleasure or profit. In truth, the only difficulty lies in hitting flying shots, at the same time, that is the grand object in shooting, and a Sportsman, until he be so far qualified, can expect to make no figure in the field. With regard to written instructions for shooting, riding on horseback, or any other art which requires a pliant and adroit use of the limbs, they can only furnish the memory, and secure the novice from the common error of commencing his practice improperly; for it is one thing to know by rote, the rules of an art, but another to be able to put them in action with facility and skill, which can only result from actual practice.

In learning the use of the gun, the first object is to get the better of trepidation or apprehension, at the instant of discharge; until those be totally conquered, all accuracy of aim is out of the question, in order to which, the gunner, in pulling the trigger, should feel no more emotion, or nervous affection, than in taking a pinch of snuff. He may advance so far, by shooting at a DEAD MARK, which is, in fact, the best initiatory method of acquiring the AIM. His first game must be small birds, particularly sparrows, which, in the manner of their covey and flight, resemble partridges; and as it has been well observed, the too common custom of practising upon the swallow tribe should be

abandoned, both because those birds are not only harmless, but highly useful for the destruction of insects; and besides, too difficult for the aim of a beginner. It is in this sparrow, or small game novitiate that, the novice must, as far as possible, divest himself of that flutter of the spirits and almost paralytic eagerness, which most men feel in the critical moments of expectation, and on the springing of the game, with its rattling or whirring noise—

> "Now my pulse beats quick
> With expectation, but by practice train'd
> At once subsides, that coolness may assist
> My steady aim."

It is presupposed that the Sportsman has provided himself with the kind of gun most convenient to his taste, and in particular, with respect to the length, straightness, or curve of the stock, as may be best adapted to his stature and form. In holding the gun to present it, the left hand formerly used to grasp the middle of the barrel, at least as far as the entrance of the ramrod into the stock. Many years since, on account of the accidents which had happened from the bursting of barrels, it was proposed, in presenting the piece, to place the left hand near the guard, almost upon a level with the right, in which position, it was presumed, the left hand would escape injury, in case the barrel should burst. It thence became a somewhat general custom to hold the gun in that mode, and

so still continues. This may probably be a security in some degree, but a long, or point-heavy piece cannot be so held, with that steadiness which results from extending far the left hand, in order to attain a due balance of the weight. In taking the AIM, both eyes ought to be open, although many old shooters close the left eye, and as they pretend, can with one eye take an aim with more singleness and truth. As a general rule, liable indeed to variation, the point of the gun or sight, in a right line from the mark upon the breech, should be levelled point blank with the object, and instantaneously, the finger must draw the trigger. Here lies the great art in shooting; that mutual sensibility of co-operation between the eye and the finger, which no language can convey, but which practice will perfect. In the language of an old Game-Keeper of the late Earl of Shipbrook, in Suffolk—"the finger and the eye must go hand in hand." A person who should go into the field, without any previous experience in the use of the gun, would in all probability, shut both eyes on the instant of drawing the trigger, whilst, by a sort of sympathy, or common consent of the limbs, the left hand would, at the same moment, as it were convulsively, either elevate, or drop, or draw the barrel a foot towards its own side—but no matter, should the gunner miss the bird at which he had aimed, there might be a covey; and should the whole of them escape, an unfortunate head of black game—a stray crow—might receive a random shot, and

serve to grace the bag. Thus the Cockney, in his first season's hunting excursions from Barrows Hedges, in his hedge and ditch leaps, either sits quite loose, patiently waiting the event, or glues himself to the saddle, and holding equally fast by the bridle, shuts both his eyes, immediately *in transitu*, by way of an additional security; and then defies branches of trees, stubs, stakes, briars, or whatever else, fortune, or the nature of the fence, may have placed in opposition to his course. *On all occasions, look your danger full in the face, and steadily at your mark; so may you become successful, and a good shot.*

PARTRIDGE-SHOOTING is generally, and with much propriety, the first essay of the juvenile, or would-be Gunner. He should take the field in company with one experienced friend, or servant, who is a good shot, and knows the country well, and where the game lies. A single staunch dog, pointer or setter, or a brace at most, will be sufficient, as much company, either of men or dogs, is apt to distract the attention and confuse the young Sportsman. We will, with the Poet, suppose him anticipating the joys of the Partridge Season, and anxious that no wanton, or underhand and malignant injury, be done to the nests or young birds, when, after lingering, yet ardent expectation—

> " SEPTEMBER comes to cheer the Fowler's heart,
> And raise his anxious hopes; day after day
> He marks the fruitful country change around

With eager eye. First from the fertile meads,
Divested of their widely waving load,
The pregnant hay-rick rises. Gentle Swains,
If chance should lead you to the chosen spot,
Where the shy partridge forms her simple nest,
The embryo offspring spare: and when your scythe
Levels the grassy vallies, should your foot
Approach the helpless brood, step back with care,
Nor our fond hopes destroy —"

Vincent's Fowling.

Circumspection—deliberation, are the two grand watchwords in the Shooter's Vocabulary. The dogs standing, and the birds having been sprung, let the novice mark his bird, and in the *moment* which is allowed, and that, in due time, will be found fully sufficient, calculate the proper distance at which to fire—cock and shoulder his piece, and then! Let the aim be invariably directed to one particular bird, that is to say, at the whole object, point blank, aiming at this or that part, above or below, before or behind, being ulterior considerations, after the marksman shall have become acquainted with the trim of his piece, and having acquired a settled habit of shooting. It is meant that he should *attempt* to do this, for the juvenile gunner will most probably be foiled in his first aim, and as there will not *to him* be time for a second choice, he will after all, fire at the covey, and have only the chance of random shots. It is the truest sign of inexperience to be too hasty. A bird may be well permitted to advance perhaps

from fifteen to thirty yards from its springing, e'er the gun be cocked, and it seldom need be ready cocked; and the shot may be made at thirty-five to fifty paces distance. Beyond that distânce, it is not ordinarily, proper or worth while, to discharge a gun. Reasons both of humanity and interest appertain to this case. It is an unthinking and unfeeling conduct to attempt to wound, or break the limbs of a creature, which may perish miserably in some hole or corner, totally out of your reach; and it is not worth your trouble to discharge and foul your gun, without a chance of success. Long distances agree only with skilful marksmen, heavy pieces, and large shot.

> "As glory more than gain allures the brave
> To dare the combat loud or louder wave;
> So the ambition of the Sportsman lies
> More in the certain shot than bleeding prize;
> While Poachers, mindful of the fatal hour,
> Among the covey random slaughter pour;
> And as their number press the crimson'd ground,
> Regardless reck not of the secret wound,
> Which borne away, the wretched victims lie
> 'Mid silent shades, to languish and to die.
> O, let your breast such selfish views disclaim,
> And scorn the triumph of a casual aim!
> Disdain such rapine, of your skill be proud,
> One object singling from the scattering crowd!"
>
> *Pye.*

In shooting, as in all things which require instant action, the old proverb should be ever uppermost in the mind, *post est occasio calva*—opportunity

behind, is a blank; you must take it in front. A shooter following the mark with the muzzle of his piece, in every zigzag direction, without being able to make up his mind, and give his finger the hint, will not speedily or pleasantly fill his game bag. This may be somewhat allowable, or perhaps unavoidable, in a novice, but care must be taken not to induce such a habit. In conformity with the rules already prescribed, instant execution must follow the shortest possible deliberation—MARK—PRESENT—FIRE! all in one breath.—Circumspection, and a quickness kindred to the velocity of the shot itself, formed into a spontaneous habit, indicate the accomplished marksman.

We have been thus far referring to the two or three first shots of the young Sportsman; as he gains experience and confidence in his aim, he will generally feel the necessity of directing it, full a hand's breadth before the bird, should the distance be nearly forty yards; and from that to a foot, or upwards, should he have a long shot. For it must be remembered, the bird is rapidly on the wing, and however ready the gunner, a momentary delay must necessarily attend the dispatch of his missile. This is given as an established rule, which no doubt has its weight. As to cross shots, flying, or running, it is still more necessary to level some inches before the head of the object, allowing for its degree of speed, or the bulk of the charge may fly harmless behind it. There is farther an old maxim, which directs us,

in shooting at a very distant object, for example, at the length of from sixty to eighty paces, to take aim somewhat above it, because the force of the point blank shot may be reduced by the distance, and the chance of hitting the mark, remain only with those, which have begun to describe the curve. Without controverting the general accuracy of this, I shall only observe that, it is to suppose an attempt made beyond the reach of the piece, for at all extraordinary distances, point blank shot only, are probable to do execution. The ELEVATED BREECH, or rather elevated sight, is in high repute, and strongly recommended to secure the aim from falling below the mark; the same effect was formerly supposed to be derived from the straight stock, the Sportsman's invariable aim should be, to kill *clean*, not to mutilate, and waste the game, and render shooting mere labour and gun cleaning. But when real accident has brought to your hand the wounded bird, imitate the humane conduct of the Poet, whom we have before quoted—

> "Various is their fate;
> Some lifeless fall, others, with broken wing,
> Attempt, in vain, to rise again in air;
> But soon one common fate involves them all;
> *Their poor remains of life, my ready hand*
> *With friendly mercy seizes.*"

We have always been instructed to aim at the *head* of a hare, running in a straight line before us, the meaning of which is, I believe, a direction

to shoot high enough. A hare will undoubtedly carry away a great deal of small shot, but it is a fair mark, and a shooter equipped purposely for hares, with a good piece, and No. three and four shot, ought to kill at full sixty yards. I have not the usual objection to shooting Hares. RABBIT-SHOOTING, from the quickness, turns, and doubles of those animals, is useful exercise for the young Marksman, at such as are styled *snap* or rapid shots.

CROSS SHOTS, and the allowances necessary to be made in all cases, have been adverted to; but what Captain Hawker says on these points, appears so satisfactory and conclusive, that I again take the liberty of giving my readers the advantage of his mode of instruction:

"Be careful to remind him, as a beginner, to *keep his gun moving*, as follows;—before an object, *crossing;* full *high* for a bird *rising* up, or flying away *very low;* and between the ears of hares and rabbits, running *straight away* (all this of course, in proportion to the distance; and if we *consider the velocity* with which a bird flies, we shall rarely err, by firing, when at forty yards, *at least*, five or six inches *before* it). Till the pupil is *au fait* in all this, he will find great assistance from the sight, which he should have precisely *on* the *intended point*, when he fires. He will thus, by degrees, attain the art of killing his game *in good style*, which is, to *fix his eyes on the object*, and fire *the moment he has brought up the gun.* He may then,

ultimately, acquire the knack of killing *snap shots*, and bring down a November bird *the moment it tops the stubble*, or a rabbit *popping* in a furze brake, with more certainty than he was once used to shoot a young grouse in August, or a partridge in September."

I am tempted in this place, to make another quotation, from the elaborate and superior performance of the Rev. Mr. Daniel.

"It may, however, be mentioned, that in a cross shot to the right, the difficulty is very much increased, if the right leg is *first* when the bird rises; the gun cannot then be brought but a very trifle beyond a straight line to the *right*, and frequently gentlemen stand with their feet thirty inches apart, when in the act of firing; a position that effectually prevents their bringing their gun to bear upon a *crossing* object. When dogs point, or when game has been marked, and expected to spring, the walk should be with short and easy steps; the body can then be easily turned upon the legs, as if on a pivot, and the bird commanded even if it should fly quite round the Sportsman."

Another yet! from an elegantly written and useful, although somewhat whimsical work, entituled, Kunopædia. The following is there recommended, as the proper FORM and POSITION of the Shooter, in instant expectation from the regular notice of his advancing dog, of the springing of the covey. "This must be done by a decisive step-out of the left leg, the foot in

a line of direction with your thigh, towards the range of the birds; your right foot, at the same time, turned outwards, to very nearly a right angle with the other; your body nearly upright, but easy; and altogether considerably sunk upon the bended spring of both knees; assuming thus, by this extension of the legs, and cross direction of the feet, a position of firm, but flexible support." It will appear by these directions, that a gunner will not stand, or pace the field any the less gracefully or usefully, for a previous drilling in the dancing school, or on the pugilistic theatre.

Let us here pause a while, in order to introduce a Sportsman, indeed but a temporary one, and whose report is not so favourable as that of several of his cloth, who did us honour in our early quotation. It is MARTIN LUTHER himself, the great Reformer, whom we now call into the presence of our readers.

During the time this celebrated Reformer remained *incog.* at a Castle near Wurtzburg—" I was," says he, " lately two days sporting in the country; we killed a brace of hares, and took some partridges; a very pretty employment truly for an idle man! However, I could not help theologizing amidst dogs, missile weapons, and nets; for I thought to myself, do not we, in hunting innocent animals to death, very much resemble the devil, who by crafty wiles, and the instruments of wicked priests, is seeking continually whom he may devour? Again, we happened to

take a leveret alive. I put it into my pocket to preserve it, yet we were not gone far before the dogs seized upon it, in my pocket, and worried it. Just so the Pope and the Devil rage furiously to destroy the souls that I have saved, in spite of all my endeavours to preserve them. In short, I am tired of pursuing these little innocent beasts, and had rather be employed in spearing bears, wolves, tigers, foxes; that is, in opposing and confounding wicked and impious divines, who resemble these savage animals in their qualities." After all this, it cannot yet be doubted, that the zealous Reformer relished a good hare, or a dish of partridges for his dinner.

The caution not to make use of either the muzzle, or but end of the gun, to beat covers or hedgerows, is worth repetition, since many careless persons are so accustomed to the practice, and with the piece cocked. Now if it be done with the but end, in all probability, the muzzle is directed towards some person in company. I was once looking over a heath, with a young man, who, pushing his gun under some cover, brought it up, filled with loose earth; birds rising at the instant, and being loth to lose a shot in an unsuccessful day, he fired without cleaning his barrel, but did not kill, although a second-rate shot; probably, because in poking his gun into the bushes, he had lost the most material part of his charge. That no accident happened to the barrel, may, perhaps, be attributed to the lightness and loose-

ness of the earth admitted. Nor should ever a gun be presented to assist a companion up a bank, as is the common custom, since it is so often done with the gun cocked.

A good Shot seldom *points and takes down his gun*, the which, however, I have done full often. On the other hand, some young dashing Shooters, having acquired the aim, cannot restrain themselves to give the rising covey trigger law, but pounce at the moment, and blow up their birds, to spare cutting them up at table. Use abates their heat. As to the certain, unerring aim, let no man but Pistol, boast of it, since it is one of those delicate achievements which depend on a variety of contingencies, one of which failing, success fails. The wind and weather even, will make a considerable difference, as it shall affect the charge, or the nerves of the gunner. There is something analagous in this, to the trial of speed in a horse, gallopping or trotting, which shall vary so considerably at different trials. Some delicacy of this kind has even been supposed to subsist in the barrel of the gun itself, because it is found that guns of the highest character, will throw the shot very differently, on different trials: but I suspect we are to look for the cause of such irregularity, not in the gun barrel, supposing it perfectly clean, but in the instant state of the gunner himself, and in the ammunition. A humourist, of the writer's former acquaintance, well known in a certain part of Essex, and a fair Shot, whenever he could not kill his birds currently,

used to swear his gun was bent, and invariably sent it to the Smith, to have it straightened. The man knew his old customer's cue, and returned the piece, with only a good cleaning and beautifying, with which, the gunner being in his right shooting trim, it succeeded on the next occasion to admiration. This helped some young blades in the vicinity to a good metaphor; whenever a man could not acquit himself in any attempt, to his satisfaction, they observed, *his gun was bent*; or, as jockies say, when a horse has failed to run up to his usual mark—it was not his running day.

The use of the DOUBLE GUN is too obvious to need definition. We sometimes hear of the danger of the two-barrelled piece; but I, who am cautious in the extreme, see no real cause for apprehension. He who is careful with a single, will also be careful with double barrels; at the same time, it may be allowed, that a careless person may do himself mischief more conveniently and readily with the latter. With respect to any peculiar intrinsic danger in them, improvement has reduced it to a trifle, or to nothing. The barrels being solid and entire, not filed away at the junction, are equally safe with single barrels; and there need be no fear that a good modern lock will be at all affected, or the cock, although sprung, be stricken down in the charged barrel, by the shock from the discharge of the other. The double barrels are said to throw the shot somewhat *inwards* at long distances, whence it is proper to choose the right

barrel for a mark moving to the left, and the contrary: generally, in beating along a hedgerow, it is usual to fire from the barrel on the hedge side.

They who use various guns, will find the convenience of a uniformity of locks and triggers, since if some of the latter draw with difficulty, and others require only a touch, such circumstance may interfere with the delicate business of taking the aim. There is seldom the necessity for such haste, as at once cocking both guns, from which danger has ensued, one barrel having been fired and the other left loaded and cocked. One barrel remaining loaded, it is a necessary caution, excepting in cases of instant emergency, to examine with the ramrod the state of the remaining charge, and whether the shot may not have been moved by the shock. It is said, should there from this cause be a vacuum between the wadding and the shot, the gun, on being fired, would burst, an accident surely to be guarded against, although some doubt may be entertained on the matter. At any rate, shot in that loose position would not be discharged with their full effect, or they might escape from the barrel. This is probably, the chief danger and inconvenience of the double gun, and should be provided against by substantial and careful wadding.

In loading one barrel of the double gun, a careless or unsteady hand will sometimes scatter the powder or shot over, and into the other barrel. The double barrelled piece is calculated to do great execution; and to make the most of it, where

game is in plenty, both barrels may be discharged before the gun be lowered from the shoulder; the inconvenience of this is, the wind blowing the smoke from the first discharge, into the shooter's eyes, whence his second aim is momentarily prevented. On this account, it may be necessary to lower the gun, and present it again.

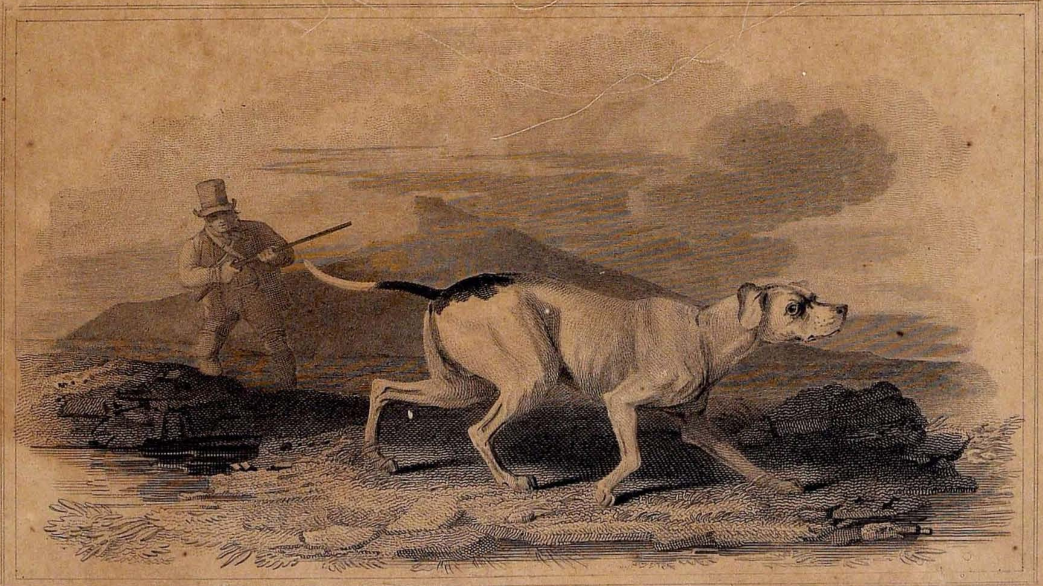
THE DOG GENUS, SPECIES, AND VARIETIES.

It would be an arduous task to advance any thing novel, or indeed not universally known, on the natural history, qualities, and character of that most faithful of slaves, the Dog: as little need can there be, one may well suppose, of any addition to the already superabundant stock of anecdote on his subject, with which our Publications on the Sports of the Field, are supplied; authentic, or otherwise—it would, in the mean time, be the extremity of impoliteness rigidly to enquire. This observation, however, may be allowable, an encouraging demand in the market, will generally, by some means or other, be answered. In few words, the dog is one of the most useful and intelligent, and the most faithful, tractable, and amiable of all those animals, which man has subdued to his use and purposes; he has all the submission and even fawning of the slave, with the least of his treachery.

In the Dog Genus I would willingly include the Fox; since he barks like the Dog, and intercopulates with the bitch, begetting not a hybrid or mule progeny, but one which will propagate the species *ad infinitum*, indifferently and successfully intercopulating with either dog or fox. Such are

surely the true marks of generic identity. As to the facts of these successful and successive intercopulations, they exist in cart loads; specimens of which may be found in Mr. Daniel, who has also gratified his readers with a sample, extracted from a book called the Cabinet, of the grandiloquence of poor Taplin, who had the faculty, beyond all other mortal men, of hitting upon a parallel, exactly midway between sense and nonsense; as John Wilkes used to say, *inter unum et unam*. Whether we may adopt a parity of reasoning with respect to the dog and the WOLF, is not so clear, from defect of facts. That their sexual congress is productive, has been established on repeated proofs; but whether such produce be hybrid or not, seems hitherto uncertain. Indeed it is probable, that every possible act of generation in animals, might be successful, so far as to produce a mule.

Only one author, so far as my reading or memory extend, has controverted the theory of Buffon, on the origin of every existing species and variety of animals, from a single archetype of each genus, possessing within itself the rudiments of every possible specific variety, which have been elicited from that original source, by the influence and operation of time, climate, and circumstance. I cannot coincide with this grand theory of the ingenious and laborious Count, nor with the rationality of those metamorphoses, which he brings about with so much facility, from change of place and influence of food and climate. Nature, so far as her system



Engraved by Tookey & Davenport, from a Drawing by L. Clennell.

Published by Sherwood, Neely, & Jones, Paternoster Row, Oct. 1, 1817.

POINTING.

extends, has left nothing imperfect; and it could have cost her just as little trouble to create at once various species of the same genus, calculated for various regions and uses, as only one original, including the whole possible series of variation. It would seem a kind of creative imperfection, to leave animals to acquire their aptitude for soil, and climate, and their destined purposes, by an immense length of time, and a long series of gradation and variety.

The brains of Buffon, fermented into a hot-bed, by the heat of his hypothetical enthusiasm, have urged his fruitful pen to dictate a number of wonderful transmogriphications; to wit—he tells us with all the gravity of conviction, that the hound, when transported into Spain or Barbary, where all animals have fine, long, bushy hair, would be converted into the Spaniel and Water Dog; the Irish Greyhound, conveyed to the North, becomes the great Danish Dog; and the Bull Dog, transported from *Britain* to Denmark, becomes the little Danish Dog; also, that the Bull Dog, the naked, or Turkish, and the Iceland Dog, constitute but one race; and that the Mastiff is produced from the Bull Dog and Irish Greyhound, and the Pug from the Bull Dog and the small Danish Dog. Thus, then, if all races are convertible by the mere force of climate, the smallest French Lap Dog, which a pint mug might contain, transported to Ireland, would, in process of time, grow up to an Irish Giant of the species; that is to say, to an Irish

Greyhound, which Buffon supposes to be the largest of dogs!

Is it not most extraordinary that the acute and discriminating mind of the philosopher Buffon, should totally overlook so obvious a cause, as the unavoidable crossing or intercopulation between the strangers and the established breed of the country, whence the former, or infinitely less numerous individuals, would be necessarily merged in the breed of the latter, becoming, in a few generations, intrinsically and externally the same. We will not pretend, that a similar mistake in our English Cattle Improvers, is equally extraordinary, who formerly took it for granted (see Lawrence on Cattle), that each English breeding district had a similar virtue, and by a peculiar influence of soil and climate, converted, in the course of time, all newly introduced stock into the established breed!

It seems utterly improbable, whether in speculation, or from the evidence of facts, that nature's landmarks in the species, any more than in the genus, can ever be removed by any possible cause, short of alien intercopulation. We might with equal reason suppose, and Buffon has really proceeded to that length, that a Horse, from the mere change of climate and habits, would become an Ass, as that a Foxhound would become a Greyhound, a Bull Dog a Mastiff, or a Carthorse a Racer, and *vice versa*. No, each species will retain its peculiar specific and distinctive qualities, to the end of time, to whatever region on earth it may be transported,

notwithstanding it may undergo evident, and particularly external changes. Those changes even might be avoided almost entirely, by a punctual attention in the new country, to the accustomed food and habits of the adopted species. Of this there cannot be a plainer elucidation and proof, than is offered by our English Race Horses, which are of the pure South Eastern species, bating a few accidental English crosses, too trifling for notice, which have for centuries retained, and in all probability for ever will retain, their original specific form and properties, and are at this moment, as distinct from the English or Northern Cart Horse, or small horse, as these last are from the Arabs, Barbs, Syrians, and Persians, from which our Racers originally descended. Our Racers indeed, have acquired a larger and fuller form than their progenitors, from the superior care and provision which they have enjoyed in this country; but that circumstance affects not the essentials of the argument. To borrow an analogy from the human race, the Moors or Mahomedans of Guinea, after a sojournment during six or seven centuries, in the Country of the Negroes, remain, to this hour, a people equally distinct from the Negroes as at the first, assimilating no otherwise with them than in proportion to sexual mixture.

Nor can I agree a whit better, with the Count de Buffon, in his derivation of Varieties, or explanation of Crosses. According to him, the Bull Dog, and certain others, above stated, constitute but one

race. How one race? I should prefer the old opinion among us, that, the Bull Dog is an artificial Variety, in all probability, originally compounded in this country, from a cross between the MASTIFF and the DUTCH PUG, as the chief basis. Nothing, indeed, can be more obvious than the affinity between the Bull Dog and Pug; and after all our mighty boasts of the English Bull Dog, we were under the necessity of importing part of the raw materials from Holland, before we could complete the manufacture. The Mastiff, supposed by Buffon to be a variety from the Bull Dog and Irish Greyhound, I should rather suppose to be an original species, perhaps equal in antiquity to his famous SHEPHERD'S DOG. The breed of Mastiffs, so long known in England, as keepers and guards, has of late years been so much reduced, or mixed, that it has become difficult to obtain pure individuals. Mr. Coleridge, however, did not forget this customary and necessary guard of the houses of our ancestors, in that most eccentric and whimsical of all the efforts of genius, his Christabel—

> " Sir Leoline, the Baron rich,
> Hath a toothless *Mastiff* bitch;
> From her kennel beneath the rock
> She makes answer to the clock,
> Four for the quarters, and twelve for the hour;
> Ever and aye, moonshine or shower,—
> Sixteen short howls, not over loud;
> Some say she sees my lady's shroud."

The Dog genus, deriving from nature, original

predispositions and faculties, those divided among a certain number of primeval species, and those species spread over the face of the earth, it was left to human sagacity, to take advantage thereof. In conformity to the dictates of the Eternal, men, in the subduction of the beasts of the earth, availed themselves of their apparent distinctive properties. Thus of dogs, the Shepherd chose that species which evinced an innate disposition to guard and protect; hunting dogs were selected from the peculiar and exquisite acuteness of their olfactory nerves: others for the keenness of their sight, for their speed, or powers of continuance; some for the property of taking to the water, and so on, throughout the whole range of canine qualifications, which have been elicited, improved, extended, and infinitely modified, by the art and industry of man. There has been, moreover, perhaps in all countries, a species, or race of expletive Mongrels, the sole qualifications of which, are to bark, and be troublesome, with the utter incapacity of acquiring any of the peculiar and useful properties of the regular species.

The old Continent hath immemorially been well stocked with the dog, which was yet said to have been a stranger to the new, until the Spaniards carried him thither, where he now exists also in a wild state, having, from great increase, or the neglect of man, retraced his original steps. Dogs are capable of procreation in the first year, and the bitch goes with young about sixty-two days, pro-

ducing from three or four, to a dozen whelps, born blind, but obtaining their sight in ten days. The habits of the bitch during her *season*, are well known; that she is a total stranger to the passion of love for one; has no choice of a male, but is by nature a prostitute. A singularity there is in the bitch, worth attending to, from its consequences: she will often, however small herself, choose the largest male she can find, a freak which often costs her life, from the size of the puppies generated.

The author has, in the commencement of the present Section, hinted his apprehension, on the score of laying any farther load on that already well weighted theme, the qualifications and anecdotal history of the dog. Some attention, however, to this branch of the subject, may not be superfluous, and may probably be expected by the Sporting Reader and lover of the Canine Race, the interesting qualities of which he delights in, and so thoroughly understands from daily experience. The Dog and the Elephant are said to stand at the head of RATIONAL BRUTES; and it seems an inconsistence, closely bordering on absurdity, or an obvious prejudice, to deny to those animals, the possession of a large portion of the reasoning faculty, since they demonstrate powers which are of the very essence of mind and of reason—nominally, perception, the discriminative faculty, memory, feeling, passion. *Pope*, fully aware of the dilemma which attends that prejudice, so reluctant to accord reason to beasts, says—

"Instinct from reason, how shall we divide?"

Indeed we may as well style reason a higher degree of instinct, in human nature, as attribute all the rational acts of brutes to mere instinct. The reason of brutes is plainly of an inferior and limited degree; and human reason is a graduating faculty, with nearly as great inequality between man and man, as between man and beast. We have no necessity to enter into the old question of allowing or denying to beasts, SOULS; to determine of what *soular* quality those of beasts ought to be, whether *animus* or *anima*; or lastly, whether "*e traduce* or no;" the attributes of mind and of reason are conclusive.

The above remarks form a convenient prelude to the promised re-introduction of our old friend, *The Country Squire*; whose Work has been lately honoured with a reprint in the fashionable style, that is, a small impression, *in usum Curiosorum*, or of Book-Amateurs. The writer's *humanity* had certainly, no influence in his revival from the vault of the Capulets, where he had slept so long uninterrupted, nor had we any particular need of his assistance. Wherefore then disquiet him, to bring him up?

Old Nimrod tells us, in his Introduction, he is "now convinced, by plentiful instances, that it requires no greater talents to write than to talk eternally; and that in scribbling, as well as prattling, vanity and vivacity go oftener to furnish out the

copia verborum, than learning and good sense." Agreed, Old Boy! agreed; and let us also add—*de te fabula narratur.* The Squire is indeed copious, and he does not want learning; his intellect and his diction are vigorous, and his style of that *brusque*, vulgar, and wordy species, which prevailed among English writers of a certain calibre, in the days of Swift and Pope; but his judgment and reasoning powers do not keep pace with his other, and inferior mental qualities. With a sort of fanatical enthusiasm, he has arrayed a host of the weakest and most *cunning* sophistries, to prove that beasts are insensible machines, mere animated puppets, moved by the wire of instinct, utterly unconscious, void of memory, intelligence, thought, or feeling. Could a man have any other possible motive, in a laborious fallacy like this, but that of raising an apology and a sanction for those atrocious barbarities, universally and constantly perpetrated by the human on the brute creation? The whole tenor of his arguments seems to imply, that he could have no other. And yet he is not so bare-faced a moralist, as certain of our Squires of a much later date, who publicly argued for the legality of using the most ingenious, and lancinating, and most hellish cruelties upon beasts, in order to the advancement of a paramount human interest, that of promoting and exalting the courage of man! Shame ought to follow them to the grave, and be the everlasting winding sheet of their memory.

He speaks in a mighty jocose way, of young

Students in his time, stealing their neighbours' dogs, in order to dissect them, that is to say, *alive*; for such was the horrible practice, both with dogs and cats, as the present writer has a disgusting recollection. Saith this Squire—"My opinion is that, they (animals) are mere *machines*, mere material *engines*; and like all matter, put into *motion*, *in a mechanical way by other matter acting upon them*. I desire to be understood in the literal sense; all tricking and double *entendre* is no less detestable in an author than a merchant. I therefore avoid all obscure, ambiguous, and equivocal terms, and say again, that I suppose a brute, a dog or a horse, to be as real a machine as the pen I write with, and equally unable to move or act without the application of some outward force." He did not perceive that logic equally good, would serve to predicate all this of human nature.

Again—"The particles of scent ejected or transmitted from the hunted hare, pass through the tubes of the beagles' nostrils, strike upon their brains, and set every nerve in their natural motion, with no more knowledge or sense in the flyer or pursuers, than there is in the arrow that springs from the bow-string, or in the needle that so amorously follows the loadstone."—"Why should we doubt that the rays of light reflected from a Bull, are the mechanical cause of a dog's raging and breaking his collars, when we see every day the same rays have power to make the Tree blossom, the Marigold open its head, or by a small refraction

and collection through a glass, to set a house on fire?"—"The word *Memory* is often used to express that which is no more than habit; for it is only the effect of long practice, or the revolution of the same causes. The Dog fawns upon his old Master, and snarls at one that has formerly affronted him, and this is called *Memory*. But what is it more than the objects striking upon the same set of nerves, which were before affected or impelled by it, and easily renewing those motions it had raised before? Thus the sap of the tree *remembers* to rise at the return of the friendly sun; thus will our own stomach turn and nauseate at the sight of a dish of meat that has formerly offended it; and our bowels will resume their peristaltic motion at the fumes of a drug that has been used to offend them." *Ohe! jam satis.*

Did the old gentleman really overlook the *trifling* difference, in physical quality and composition, between the substance of the pen he held in his hand and the sap of a tree, and that of the brain of the dog and the horse? Did he never discover the light of intelligence beaming in the eyes of those animals?—the harbinger of love, of fidelity, pleasure, pain, rage, anxiety, grief. If he kindly treated his dog, did it not express pleasure and gratitude?—if he commanded it, did it not obey?—if he wounded it, did it not feel?—if he injured it, did it not resent?—if he enraged it, did it not attempt revenge?—Did he ever experience all, or any of this, from his pen, or from vegetable sap?

Had the following well-attested Horse Anecdote occurred in the days of our Stoic, he would at least have smiled, even if he had not allowed the existence of something like *design*, in the conduct of the four-footed machine. "A man, named Sargent, Constable of St. George's in the East, lately made a complaint before Messrs. Markland and Bennett, the sitting Magistrates at Shadwell Police Office, against a Horse, for stealing hay! The Constable said that, the horse came regularly every night to the Coach Stands in St. George's, and ate his belly-full of hay, and would then gallop away. He defied the whole of the Parish Officers to apprehend him; for if they attempted to go near him, while he was eating, he would up with his heels, and kick at them, or run at them; and if they did not get out of the way, he would bite them: the officer thought it necessary to state the case to the Magistrates. One of the Magistrates thus directed—'Well, Mr. Constable, if you should be annoyed again by this body, in the execution of your duty, you may apprehend him, *if you can*, and bring him before us, to make answer to your complaints.'"

The following is a shining example of the fidelity and affection of the Dog. A Shepherd of the Grampian Mountains, in an excursion for looking over his flocks, carried with him, according to their custom, one of his children, an infant of three years old. By this practice, the Highlanders are inured from their earliest infancy, to the rigours of

their severe climate. The Shepherd, attended by his dog, being under the necessity of ascending a summit at some distance, for the sake of a more extensive view of his route, and the ascent being too fatiguing for the child, he was left on a small plain below, with strict injunctions not to stir from it until his father's return. Scarcely, however, had the father gained the summit, than the horizon was suddenly darkened by one of those impenetrable mists, which frequently descend so rapidly amidst those mountains, as, in the space of a few minutes, almost to turn the day to night. The anxious father immediately hastened back, to succour his child; but, owing to the thick darkness, and his own trepidation, he unfortunately missed his way in the descent. After a fruitless search of many hours, amongst the dangerous morasses and cataracts, with which those mountains abound, he was at length overtaken by night, and, fortunately for himself, within a short distance of his own cottage; but missed his dog. To renew the search by night would be equally perilous and fruitless. Next morning, by day-break, the unhappy father, accompanied by a friendly band of neighbours, set out in search of his child; but after a day spent in fruitless fatigue, he was at last compelled to return, by the approach of night. He had, however, the satisfaction of being informed, that his dog had been home, and that, on receiving a piece of cake, he had instantly gone off again. In this course the dog persisted, during several days, when his mas-

ter, stricken with the singularity of the circumstance, resolved to follow him. The dog led the way to a cataract, at some distance from the spot where the child was lost. The sides of the cataract, or chasm, almost joined at top, through which a yawning gulph was discovered of immense depth, such being frequent in the Grampian Hills. Down this rugged and almost perpendicular descent, the dog made his way without hesitation, and at last disappeared, entering a cave, the mouth of which was almost on a level with the torrent. The Shepherd with difficulty followed; but, on entering the cave, how vivid and sweet were his surprize and emotions, to behold his infant eating, with much apparent satisfaction, the share of cake the dog had just brought him, whilst the faithful animal stood by, wagging his tail, and eying his young charge with the utmost affection. The child, it appeared, had wandered to the brink of the precipice, and either fallen in, or scrambled down until it had reached the cave; and the dog, missing the child, had traced him by the scent, to the spot; and having found, this faithful guard never quitted his charge, night nor day, but during the time necessary to provide it food, out of his own daily allowance.

One more anecdote, but of the ludicrous kind, of those four-legged machines, known by the name of MONKEYS; on the sagacity of which, none who know them, will be sceptical. Many years since, one of the crew of an Indiaman, informed

me, that, being on shore with a party, in an uninhabited island of those seas, after wandering about until they were much fatigued, they sat down under a shady tree, and spread their refreshments before them. Suddenly they were annoyed by the descent upon themselves and their victuals, of showers not of the most savoury nature. Looking upwards, they beheld a considerable pack of Monkeys, which, perceiving themselves discovered at their fun, leaped away from branch to branch, to some distance, and fixing in a tree within view, sate grinning and chattering at the trick they had successfully played upon their brethren, the two-legged machines. The sailors, although they by no means relished the new Indian sauce to their meat, were so highly tickled by this *ruse* of the cunning and mischievous brutes, that they merely dislodged their neighbours, by firing a charge or two of powder at them.

The SPORTING DOGS of this country, are at present, distinguished by the following denominations—HOUNDS, including the *Fox Hound*—*Stag and Buck Hounds*—*Beagle*—*Terrier*—*Bloodhound*—*Harrier*—*Greyhound*—*Lurcher*. SHOOTING DOGS: the *Pointer*—*Setter*—*Spaniels*, great and small, for LAND and WATER. The *Newfoundland Dog* and *Poodle*.

The other breeds commonly to be found amongst us, may be comprehended in the following list: the *Shepherd's Dog*—*Vermin Cur*—*Mastiff*—*Bull Dog*—*Draught Dog*—*Turnspit*—DALMATIAN

Dog, or Bengal Harrier—Fox Cur—*Harlequin*—*Italian Greyhound*—*French and German Lap Dogs*—*Dutch Pug*—with *Curs* and *Mongrels*, in non-de-script varieties innumerable.

A few lines will dispatch the sum of our business with these last. The *Shepherd* is a dog of high consideration and indispensible usefulness. The breed is preserved in considerable purity, and it is of public consequence that it should be so. But there is a gross defect in our education of this invaluable Variety, which is too generally trained to be a hunter and chaser of sheep, not their guardian and protector—the terror, rather than the love and refuge of the flock. This is the case to a disgusting degree, in London, amongst our Smithfield Savages, who, however, have some kind of an apology, in that infamous and contemptible niggardliness of policy or insanity, which compels them to drive and slaughter animals, in a crowded Metropolis. The Continental Sheep Dog, as Sir Joseph Banks tells us, most truly is far better and more rationally trained, the sheep, void of all fear, looking upon him as their natural friend and protector: his discipline is also more precise and his duties more complicated than with us. The Dog of the Continent also, and of Newfoundland, has been favoured by nature, with a larger portion of sagacity, than can be boasted by any of the Species on this Island. The Vermin Cur is another variety of infinite use, and deserving of far more attention than it receives, in a Country where corn

is at such vast prices, and where rat hunting is not followed with quite so much enthusiasm as Fox Hunting. The true breed of this Variety is in the possession of *Hedgers* and *Ditchers*, and *Tramps*. These little hard-mouthed Curs are indefatigable and undaunted, in the destruction of not only rat, weasel, polecate, and stoat, but of the viper and snake tribe, which they seize instinctively, in a way to escape their venomous bite. Among small Curs, the Latrator, Barker or Wappit, ought by no means to be forgotten, as, when well trained, having a tongue which nothing can stop or bribe by night, and thence in the opinion of the celebrated Justice Sir John Fielding, who spoke on the best authority, that of thieves themselves, the surest defence for a house, superior even to the fiercest Ban Dog or Mastiff.

The Bull Dog, devoted solely to the most barbarous and infamous purposes, the real blackguard of his species, has no claim upon utility, humanity, or common sense, and the total extinction of the breed, is a desirable consummation. The Draught Dog is generally in the Metropolis, where most used in England, a strong, low, and boney Mongrel, and the most honest of draught cattle, many pulling themselves to death. It does not seem the custom of this Country, to train the large and regular breeds of dogs to this purpose. The Turnspit is but little, if at all in use, at present, and it were to be wished he had an everlasting holiday, since his duty is not only severe and cruel, but

machinery a far better substitute. In the ornamental class may be reckoned, the DALMATIAN, or COACH DOG, and the ITALIAN GREYHOUND. The FANCY breeds may be safely left to the skill and care of the fanciful, and with respect to the innumerable hosts of non-descripts, nothing can be said, except in correction of the folly and cruelty of those, who capriciously breed useless animals, for the purpose of afterwards turning them out to perish by inches, from famine and ill usage. Similar cruelty is in constant use towards CATS.

To proceed with our proper object, SPORTING DOGS—the HOUND, a native of the European Continent, is divided into the *Northern* and *Southern*, the latter being the largest, stoutest or most lasting, and the slowest. The hound is either indigenous, or almost beyond record, in this country. Two or three centuries since, and in Markham's time, large and slow hounds were bred in the North West of England, in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Shropshire, and in most Woodland and Mountainous Districts; a middle-sized and speedy Variety in Worcestershire, Bedford, and Berkshire; and swift and slender Hounds, in Yorkshire, Cumberland, and Northumberland.—The true TALBOT, a name long since out of use, is described as a large, heavy, and slow hound, black, black tanned, liver coloured or milk white, with a round, thick head, short nose, uprising; large open nostrils, ears excessive large and thin, hanging much below his chaps, the flews of his

upper lips almost two inches lower than his neither jaw, indicating a merry, deep mouth, and a loud ringer; back strong and straight, and rather rising, showing toughness and endurance; fillets broad and thick, enabling him to gather up his legs quickly, and without pain; his huckle bones round and hidden, shewing he will not tire; thighs round, and hams straight; tail long and *rush* grown, or big at the setting on, and tapering; the hair under his belly hard and wiry, a proof of hardiness; his legs large, boney and lean; foot round; high knuckled and well clawed; with a dry, hard soal: the general composition of his body so just and even, that no level may distinguish whether his fore or hinder part be the higher: lastly, this hound has the most powerful scent, and delights most in blood, with a natural inclination to hunt *dry foot.*

The LIGHT OR NORTHERN HOUND has a head more slender, with a longer nose; ears and flews more shallow, back broad, belly gaunt, joints long, tail small, and his general form more slender and *Greyhound* like: but the virtues of these Yorkshire hounds, I can praise no further than for scent and swiftness, for with respect to mouth, they have only a little shrill sweetness, but no depth of tone or solemn music. The LITTLE BEAGLE, the smallest of Hounds, which may be carried in a man's glove, is bred for *delight* only, being of curious scent and passing cunning in the hunt, for the most part tiring, and seldom killing the prey, but at some strange advantage. This is the dwarf

Beagle lately revived by COLONEL THORNTON, the most curious and ardent of modern Sportsmen. With these hounds our Ancestors hunted the HARE, STAG, BUCK, ROE, and OTTER: for the FOX and BADGER they selected 'gusselled and shag-haired hounds, as the best finders and *verminers*.'

The foregoing account of Hounds, has been extracted, much of it in his own language, from that long-known and indefatigable Compiler, *Gervase Markham*, the Collector of a great number of important facts, and promulgator of almost an equal number of the most cruel fooleries. We learn from him that, centuries since, the English Sporting System, in essentials, was the same as at present, and that our crossing and varying the breed of dogs, is no novelty. They then boasted the fleetness of their *middle-sized* hounds, requiring horses of racing speed, and were adepts in mixing the voices of their *choir*, in order to form both an equally melodious and harmonious pack. But of this more in its proper place.

As to the Hounds of the present time, STAG HOUNDS are the largest and slowest. FOX HOUNDS of a somewhat smaller Variety, having in them an obvious, and not a modern cross of the Greyhound. BEAGLES, and HARRIERS or HARE HOUNDS, which will also hunt the Fox, are merely hound crosses with reduced size, but probably with no alien variety. TERRIERS, to give my own opinion or rather guess, have in them a Fox cross, from their instinctive propensity to earth, and their coat

—perhaps a mixture of the dwarf hound, the fox and the cur. The BLOODHOUND is merely a hound of the largest size, trained to the scent of human blood, and thence the breed can never be extinct where hounds are kept, although the use of them, with much propriety, may. Their use at *Haiti*, can never be forgotten, nor the diabolism there perpetrated by those military Traitors and Impostors, who had, first of all, murdered liberty, and deserted her sacred cause, in their own country; nor will the faithful historian be unmindful to paint in its true colours, either the horrors of the *Maroon* war in Jamaica, or its defence elsewhere. The GREYHOUND or COURSER, appears an original species, indigenous to *Greece*, and those Eastern Countries, in the neighbourhood of which, but somewhat more to the South, the RACE HORSE also is bred. The LURCHER, a breed some years since on the decline, is a mongrel between the Greyhound and Shepherd Dog, or the smaller and mongrel Mastiff. He is the Poacher's dog, or kept for the purpose of deception, under the pretence of not being of the hunting species. The Lurcher will catch up hares in an enclosed country, and some of them, though slow, will run long and well.

The SETTER, or SITTER, ought here to precede the Pointer, as he does chronologically, the former being in use in this Country, a century or two before the latter. The Setter is plainly a long flewed Spaniel, which has been taught to *set* or mark the

Game, as well as find it. A Duke of Northumberland, in 1555, is supposed to have first trained the Setter to the Net; probably that Noble Sportsman might have established a particular Variety for the purpose, improved the practice, and imposed the term; but Spaniels for the Net, and in a nearly similar mode, had been in use long before. The present breed of Setters has perhaps universally, a cross, more or less, of the Pointer; indeed the breeds have been mutually intermixed. As Shooting Dogs, they are in equal estimation, according to local circumstances. The Setter is as stout as the day is long—active, hardy, spirited, and fearing no ground wet or dry, nor the thickest covers, his feet being narrow, hard, and well defended by hair. He is rather long in form, lower in stature than the Pointer, with tail, quarter, and legs *feathered*; in colour, generally *sheeted* with brown or liver colour and white. To appearance, he is not a strong loined dog, yet his powers of perseverance seem to indicate the contrary. The offensive discharge from the ears common to this Variety, and perhaps to most Spaniels, is the sign of old age and approaching uselessness. It has been matter of dispute, which of these two Dogs possesses the most powerful organs of scent; but no doubt can exist that the Pointer is the most steady, and will be chosen as a high ranging, rating, and stately Dog. The Setter possesses, in full measure, the intelligence, sagacity, and affection for man, so eminent in the Spaniel; and has from the earliest

times, been of high estimation and price. A story is on record, of an Estate in Ireland being exchanged for an individual of this breed.

The POINTER is of the HOUND Species. It is somewhat remarkable that, we should have no tradition or record of the period, when this Dog was introduced into England, in aid, it may be termed, of the Setter. The latter was used literally to crouch or sit to his Game, and the standing of the Pointer might be a taking novelty. Is pointing a peculiar, original property in this dog, or is he only a variety of the Hound taught to point? Or is the Pointer a compounded breed, which to complete, required some alien cross? Granting we had the breed first from Spain, such is an improbable supposition, since we cannot suspect in that country, a knowledge of crossing the breeds of animals. We must then be content to receive the simple tradition that, the Pointer was first brought over hither from Spain.

The SPANISH POINTER, it may be presumed, did not remain long uncrossed and unimproved, in this country, where at present, the pure breed is seldom seen or used. He is a coarse, thick-headed, heavy anımal, irregularly formed, in particular along th back, which sinks and rises, and having a protuberance on the apex of the shoulder. The true-bred Spaniard has the best nose, and is the steadiest pointer, but he is too slow for the expeditious and business-like Sporting of the present day; and although some of them really cannot hunt fast

enough to tire themselves, in general, they are represented as liable to jade and knock up; a somewhat singular defect in Southern animals. We are however, probably, in no farther need of Spanish assistance, in this respect, having already derived all possible advantage from that blood, which has long since become thoroughly intermingled with the British, both of the Setter and the Fox Hound. Such is the composition of our present race of Pointers. We have indeed some, with a cross in them, of the lightest and speediest Hounds, superior to all Setters, even at their own play, that of turning off business, granting the country be not too deep and obstructed; but the finest nosed dogs, and those most to be depended on, as Pointers, are not among the speediest. Thus these breeds seem to be, in their various properties, happily accommodated to the various inclinations and wants of Sportsmen.

On the approach of the Shooting Season, it is common, both in Town and Country, to see staunch Pointers advertised at the price of ten guineas; but in a Country like ours, high qualifications will ever command a high price, a thing perfectly in the natural course. An eminent example of this, was the sale of *Colonel Thornton's* Pointer, *Dash*, which had in him, a close cross of the Fox Hound, to the late *Sir Richard Symons*, for One Hundred and Sixty Pounds worth of Champaign and Burgundy, purchased at the sale of the French Ambassador; one Hogshead of Claret, an elegant Gun, and ano-

ther Pointer; with the condition annexed that, in case of any Accident befalling the Dog, rendering him unfit for service, he should be returned to the seller, at the price of Fifty Guineas. This really happened; Dash accidentally breaking his leg, was returned to his former Master, who considered him, in that state, a great acquisition as a Stallion.—DASH was the Eclipse of Pointers, his natural instinct being so superior, and his scent so fine, that without any necessity of quartering or hunting over his ground, he was in the constant habit of marching direct up to his Birds! He was besides wonderfully steady in backing other Dogs. As a proof too, of the high perfection of training of which the Pointer is susceptible in able hands, PLUTO and JUNO, the property of *Colonel Thornton*, were sketched in the field for their Portraits, whilst pointing, by the late Mr. Gilpin, both of them steadily keeping their point, during upwards of *an hour and a quarter*, until the sketches were finished. The French *double-nosed* Pointer has not yet fallen under my observation, but I cannot find that the apparent channel which divides the nostrils of the animal, has been intentionally imposed by any breeding contrivance.

The SPANIEL is a Dog of high antiquity, and has ever been applied to his present purposes, namely, those of FINDING AND BRINGING Game when killed, to his Master, whether by Land or Water; and although there is a regular Variety of Spaniels, the province of which is the Water, Spa-

niels in general, have no aversion to it, of which their coats is an indication; and perhaps all smooth coated Spaniels are such, in consequence of some mixture of breed. There is a sort of symmetry and delicacy proper to the true-bred Spaniel, which is particularly discoverable in the head and ear, and fineness of the flew, yet he ought to have great substance, and by no means to stand high upon the leg. The Coat of the Water Spaniel is more harsh and curled. Our Land Spaniels seem to have no other material division at present, than into the *Great* or *Springers*, and the *Small*, among which last are the *Cocking Spaniels*, and *King Charles's Breed*, descended from the favourites of Charles the Second, and distinguished by the roof of the mouth being black, and certain other characteristics. This Royal Variety is much diminished, and fast wearing out; and indeed the smallest and most delicate breed of Spaniels, is far more fit for the *Carpet* than the *Thicket*, being the most elegant and attractive *Comforters*. In Spain and Italy, their Spaniels are naturally excellent, and the Kings of Spain and Naples were formerly wont to keep them in great practice.

The cringing and fawning of the Spaniel, have always been proverbial; but his affection and fidelity are equally so. Of this, Mr. Daniel, whose high-valued Spaniels, I remember to have seen the crack of the County of Essex, has given us various Anecdotal proofs, part of which, I shall trespass on him yet farther, to transcribe from his Rural

Sports. In an early period of our History, a Murderer was discovered to the King, by the sagacity and attachment of a Spaniel to his dead Master; and during the last Irish Insurrection, one of the United Irishmen shot at Vinegar Hill, left for dead, and his supposed corpse covered with earth and stones, was actually scratched and digged up by his faithful Spaniel, which finding him, cleaned the earth and blood from his face, by licking it, until a resuscitation ensued, and the man fully recovered, and was seen seven years afterwards in perfect health! Another truly impressive and authentic story we have, of the Game-Keeper and his Dog, of a most respectable and convivial Octogenarian Sportsman, who the present writer wishes may be now in the usual enjoyment of his bottle and his friend. "The Game-keeper of the Rev. Mr. Corsellis (of Wivenhoe, Essex) had reared a Spaniel, and which was his constant attendant, both by night and day: whenever old *Daniel* appeared, DASH was close behind him; and the dog was of infinite use in his nocturnal excursions. The Game, at that season, he never regarded, although in the day time no Spaniel could find it in a better style, or in greater quantity; but at night, if a strange foot had entered any of the Coverts, Dash, by a significant whine, informed his Master that the enemy were abroad; and many poachers have been detected and caught from this singular intelligence. After many years friendly connexion, old Daniel was seized with a disease, which terminated in a

consumption and his death. Whilst the slow but fatal progress of his disorder allowed him to crawl about, Dash as usual followed his footsteps; and when nature was still farther exhausted, and he took to his bed, at the foot of it, unwearily attended the faithful animal; and when he died, the dog would not quit the body, but lay upon the bed by its side. It was with difficulty he was tempted to eat any food; and although after the burial, he was taken to the Hall, and caressed with all the tenderness which so fond an attachment naturally called forth, he took every opportunity to steal back to the room in the Cottage, where his old Master breathed his last: there he would remain for hours; from whence he daily visited his grave, and at the end of fourteen days, notwithstanding every kindness and attention shewn him, he literally died broken-hearted!"

Spaniels, as well as to spring all winged Game for the Gun, are used in Coursing, to find Hare and Rabbit.

The Newfoundland Dog, so well known of late years in this country, has been introduced into the Field by some few persons, for the purpose of fetching and carrying Game, in which service it is probable, from his great sagacity and docility, he may acquit himself most satisfactorily. This noble animal, of the largest size of the *genus*, and devoted to draught in his native country, appears to be specifically the same, or a variety of the great Dog of the North of Europe, perhaps imported thence into the

Island of Newfoundland, on its first colonization. Notwithstanding his size and formidable aspect, he is one of the most blameless and good-natured of animals, neither the natural nor intentional enemy of any other; on the contrary, instinctively and voluntarily the friend of all, seeking every occasion to assist and oblige, and in his attachment to human nature equal even to the Spaniel, and inferior to him only, in the qualifications of a Courtier. To finish the strictly well-merited *eloge* of this wonderful brute, where are we, whether among Bipeds or Quadrupeds, to find his superior for kindness of heart, susceptibility of attachment, voluntary industry and proffers of service, courage, fortitude, perseverance? We have a rum story of a Dog, in former days, actually taught to speak and converse in Germany; now it is acknowledged, antiquity confers truth, or God knows what would become of the many tales which we entertain without a doubt of their veracity. Let us then suppose, merely for the sake of a *ground*, that a Newfoundland Dog had simply the addition, and no other, of the gift of speech and of language, how would he stand, precisely, in comparison with our own boasted human nature? But it is enough for the author to offer the problem, the solution he leaves to Divines and Philosophers. The Poodle is a large rough Dog, of similar qualifications with the Newfoundland. The Drover's Dog (omitted) is often a mixture between the Shepherd and Mastiff Cur, or the Lurcher.

We have already remarked on the innate qualities or predispositions of animals, and on their discovery and application by man. The term discovery seems most appropriate, since it is quite consonant with both reason and experience that the qualities of the dog, our immediate subject, which we require in those we select—scent, speed, watchfulness, courage, are an inheritance from nature, and not the mere consequences and additions of human art. The discovery and regulation only, of these qualifications, has been the task of man. He could by no possible means have conferred the faculties of scent, and the unconquerable desire of *chase* and perseverance in the Hound, or *finding* in the Spaniel and Pointer, than those of *speed* and *distant sight* in the Greyhound, and of *speed* and *continuance* in the Race Horse. The attempt would be vain to produce such extraordinary effects in common bred animals, or those destitute of nature's qualification. Not but that some counterfeits might be made, and indeed often have been; but the profit has borne no proportion with the pains. There is also invariably a superiority of form and symmetry, and of intelligence, in these qualified animals, resulting, doubtless, in part, from the pains which have been bestowed upon them.

To descend to an inferior Class, no animal exhibits a plainer proof of the existence of innate and peculiar qualities, than the Cat, which is naturally a hunter, and the Mouse and Rat her most dis-

tinguished prey. The young Cat, *Button*, now sitting beside me, arrayed in nature's robe of white and gold, and brown, had the misfortune soon after she had gained her sight, to lose her dam. This Kitten was immediately put to a Harlequin, or party-coloured Bitch, chiefly Terrier, which, as is usual, had some milk at the approach of her heat, and was received with the utmost affection, nursed, and afterwards weaned in the best manner. The milk agreed perfectly with the nurse child, and the good effect ensued of preventing the Bitch's heat. The Kitten being tried, as soon as able to run about, seized a mouse with the same avidity and fierceness shown by those which are bred under the natural mother.

Long disquisitions have been written on the *odora Canum vis*, the faculty of Scent in Dogs; the matter, however, seems to lie in a very small compass. Nature, for peculiar purposes; that is to say, to enable them to *scent* their prey, has invested certain animals with an extraordinary energy in the olfactory nerves. The attraction generally, is any animal steam, or effluvium, or a peculiar one to which there seems to be a natural or habitual tendency. The olfactory power in the Dog, seems to be susceptible of great variety and discrimination. Hence he is capable of catching a distinct scent, and of pursuing it, although intermixed with so many others. It is thus the Blood-Hound hunts and traces out the prey, upon the track of which he has been set. The permanence of the scented vapour, issuing

from the bodies of animals, in the open air, it may be easily conceived, depends upon a variety of atmospheric contingencies, affecting the success of the Sportsman. Thus in a hard frost, or dry and bracing air, the Scent seems quite neutralised, and the Dog cannot find by his nose. Heavy rains, or a sudden thaw, will have nearly the same effect. During a white and temporary frost, and just on its giving way, the Scent ascends. It seldom lies well with Easterly or Northerly Winds, if severe; but mild and dry weather, or slightly moist, are most favourable to it, and to the views of the Sportsman. All ground which is covered with vegetation, must be obviously more retentive of the scent of game, than that which is naked and fallow.

The Breeds of Animals present themselves to our view, either in the state of original *Species*, endowed with certain peculiar and determinate properties, or in that of *Varieties*, accidental, or contrived by human art, in which new properties are introduced, and the old ones divided. This refers to our well-known practice, both in the Sporting and Agricultural branches, of intermixing various Species of the same Genus of animals, in common language styled, CROSSING breeds, or IMPROVEMENT; the intent being an addition of new qualifications, or a strengthening of those already possessed by the animals subjected to the experiment. No doubt this practice has been, in some cases, eminently successful, of which a shining example immediately occurs, in the supe-

rior breeds of HORSES of this Country, for every useful purpose of the saddle and quick draught, the result of *crossing* our indigenous breeds with the COURSER of the Southern Deserts. But this crossing is too frequently abused, and indeed rendered subservient to mere ignorance and caprice, confusing the qualities, and deteriorating instead of improving the animals.

CROSSING will be better understood through the medium of a division into the *congenial* and *alien* crosses, the former purporting an intermixture of Varieties of the same, the latter of a different species. For example, it may be called a congenial, or rather co-specific cross, to intermix the Varieties of Hounds, as the *Southern* and the *Northern*, by which a desirable union of the peculiar qualifications of each has been accomplished: but an alien cross, to mix the *Spaniel* with the *Hound*, which are different species of the same genus. Against this last, Mr. Daniel very properly cautions us, as rendering the produce almost useless for a Spaniel or Shooting Dog, by imparting to it too much of the Hound, a defect which is said to subsist through many generations from a single cross. A Nobleman formerly was said to have crossed his breed of Greyhounds with the Bull Dog, and to have been successful; a success, however, imaginary or otherwise, which never could have been inferred from any rational theory; the chief alteration of animal property which could be augured in such a conjunction, one would sup-

pose, must be a detraction from speed and keenness of sight in succeeding generations, until the Bull Dog blood should be entirely merged and lost in that of the Greyhound. We have heard of Pointers crossed with the Hound, until the new Variety would hunt Deer and Fox, as well as point; but however there may be individually successful instances of this kind, as a general practice, it would be worse than useless, fulfilling the old proverb, of making Jacks of all Trades, but really good at none.

A number of successful Crosses, of both kinds, might be instanced; among others, the probably original Cross on the Setter, of the Spanish Pointer; that of the Greyhound on the Foxhound, and of the latter on the Pointer; in the first, raising the size and enhancing the desired qualities of the Setter, and in the two last, bringing a fine accession of lightness, elegance, and speed. But the safest mode, generally also void of all danger, is to adhere to the congenial Crosses, or those within the pale of the same Species, among which there will always be found sufficient Varieties to work upon, more especially, if recourse be had to distant and differently constituted Districts of Country. This consists in the choice and preservation of individuals for Breeding, of the highest excellence for form and qualification; and in judiciously matching the size, form, and qualities of the males and females, that in the course of a number of generations, a result may be obtained combining every attainable

excellence. This, it must be confessed, has the appearance of a laborious undertaking; and yet to a Breeder, the additional trouble need not be very considerable, and may be amply repaid.

Apprehension of danger from breeding In and In, or from the nearest affinities, long since banished from the Cattle Breeding system, still haunt the Kennel and the Stud. I know not on what sufficient ground, either of reason or fact, since among Sportsmen, it has been practised very sparingly; and even on that scale, perhaps, rather with good than ill success. Nor should I have the slightest objection to put a brother and sister, or father and daughter together, their form and other circumstances being convenient; but should greatly prefer such conjunctions to the making one with inferior form or quality.

Superfœtation, or a female conceiving by more than one male in the same period, I do not hold to be absolutely impossible, but I do think they have deceived themselves, who pretend to have witnessed the fact. They perhaps commit an error or oversight, somewhat similar to that of Buffon and his disciples, who, seeing animals changed in their form, attribute the change to soil and climate, instead of the intermixture with the established breed of animals on such soil. So a Bitch shall be seen joined with various Dogs, and the Puppies afterwards shall appear to be of different breeds; one, for example, resembling a Spaniel, another a Terrier, and so on. But close

ward this Bitch with one Dog only, and precisely the same result shall be witnessed. It is a very frequent occurrence, for the young to resemble their remote ancestors, or one of them, the grandsire or grandam for instance, instead of the immediate parents; and these may have mixtures of blood and crosses not at all indicated by their appearance, and are therefore unsuspected.

BREEDING.—The male and female of this genus, will procreate in their first year, but a valuable Bitch should be reserved until full two years of age, the intermediate time being spent in her education and labour, from which the subsequent period of her breeding and suckling, may be a respite. The previous periods of her heats should be strictly passed under lock and key, and none of those conceited, foolish, and useless tricks put upon the poor animal, which are so common among Kennel and Stable Conjurors. A little nitre in her water will have a good effect, during her confinement, which also affords a proper opportunity for a dose or two of calomel, or other necessary medicine.

The first consideration in breeding Dogs is, that both the male and female be THOROUGH BRED of the Species; the next, that they are thorough shaped, of good character in the Field, of the full middle size, and not too far advanced beyond the middle age, particularly the Dog. This, in course, is addressed to those who aim at the reputation of superior Breeders. The Bitch should not be worked too late in her pregnancy; should be well

nourished whilst she suckles, and her puppies fed as soon as they will lap. Imperfect or underling whelps should be destroyed, and about weaning time, which may safely be left to the Bitch, the young Dogs begin to promise the degree of symmetry and spirit which they may afterwards possess. None should be preserved which are ill-shaped, judging by the best living models, or unpromising. They should be well fed, and, as much as possible, from the kitchen and dairy. At four months old, they change their puppy for their adult teeth, which remain for life. With respect to the BREEDING SEASON, *Spring* Puppies have always been supposed the best, and the old saying is equally applicable to Dogs, as to Swine and Poultry, *no matter how early they come, provided Christmas be turned;* generous, warm, and most particularly, dry keeping always presupposed. The tips of the TAILS or *Sterns* of Hound Puppies should be twisted off with the fingers, and the DEW CLAWS cut off with a sharp pair of scissars, before they are a week old.

On the AGE of the Dog, as well as his Diseases, I shall depend chiefly on Mr. Blane, certainly our best, if not our only authority, since he is a regular Surgeon, and his experience may be pronounced greater than that of any other person. In his Canine Pathology, he instructs us, that—

"Dogs do not, as horses, present any exact criterion of their age; nevertheless, attention to the following points, will materially assist us in determining the matter. At about four years, the

front teeth lose their points, and each of them presents a flattened surface, which increases as the age advances; they likewise become less white, and more uneven. The front teeth suffer earlier than the others; and in dogs fed much on bones, or in those which fetch and carry, as it is called, they are very commonly broken out, while the dog is yet young. The Holders or Tushes are also blunted by the same causes. At seven or eight the hair about the eyes becomes slightly grey. Gradually, likewise, a greyish tint extends over the face; but it is not till ten, eleven, or twelve years, that the eyes lose their lustre: when they become dim, the dog generally breaks fast, though some last fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen years; and I have seen a mother and son vigorous at twenty, and twenty-one years old. Such instances as the latter must, however, be considered as rare." Mr. Blane has known a Dog vigorous and lively in his twenty-fourth year, and supposes the Spaniel among the longest, and the Terrier the shortest lived.

ANIMAL DISEASE & MEDICINE.

Animals, in the natural state, have Nature for their Physician. The purity of the circulating air, constant exercise, and the shelter afforded by the woods, caves, and those vegetable substances which clothe the earth, preserve the Beasts of the Field in an almost invariable state of health. Accident is their fatal enemy; *there* Nature fails them, and they possess no substitute of Art. That portion of the Domestic Animals which is destined to slaughter, for the food of Man, in respect to health, enjoys nearly the advantages of their original state of Nature, by consequence is still, or ought to be, independent of the medical art, of which a skilful VETERINARY PREVENTION should supply the place. Habitual recourse to Medical Quackery is disgraceful to the reputation of a Cattle Keeper. His true interest in the great majority of cases, is to prevent disease, and to *doctor* that which could not be prevented, with—the KNIFE.

But the case is far otherwise with those hard wrought slaves, the HORSE and the DOG, who, subject like their master, to all the contingencies of labour, accident, and luxury, experience, in a

nearly equal degree, the need of the Physician and Surgeon's Art; the Horse more especially, in addition to the penalties imposed on him, of domestication and slavery, is the victim of a long and discouraging catalogue of diseases. Nor does Animal Medicine, in the view of its sufficiency, require less than the human, of learning, talent, and professional experience, notwithstanding it is even yet, committed to the most ignorant, too often to the most knavish of human beings. The Dog, whether *petted* in the House, or laboured in the field, is liable to constitutional derangement, and to a variety of Diseases, on which it is proposed to offer some advice of a general, and rather preventive nature, with a few of the more commonly applicable *formulæ.*

In reference to the general management of House Dogs, their Indispositions and Diseases are almost invariably occasioned by neglect. There is, in most Animals, such a strength of constitutional stamina, and so much natural hardiness, that, with the benefit of preventive care, disease would be almost unknown among them. The most common neglects are irregular feeding, being constantly kept without sufficient nourishment, alternately starved and gorged, or full fed without the benefit of exercise; or exposed to cold and damp lodging: for although both the Dog and Cat will endure great extremities of cold, they are liable to occasional, sudden morbid affections from its influence. The case is similar with all domesti-

cated animals, even to the feathered race. I have witnessed as regular asthmatic paroxisms in both the *Dog* and the *Pigeon* as in the human patient.

Men of all degrees, having their attention fully absorbed by business, or pleasure, feel it far beneath them, to reflect on such a subject, as the justice which may be due to inferior animals. Thence such multitudes are, out of mere thoughtlessness or caprice, doomed to wear out a life in gradual and constant misery, from which humanity, and a due consideration, would grant them an early relief. The Dog and Cat, to be preserved in a healthy and comfortable state, require two daily portions of solid flesh, however small, regularly administered. Experience proves, that no aliment agrees better with those animals, than horse flesh. The Cat ought never to be expected to subsist on the vermin which it kills, which is, as food, destructive to its health. A good Cat is a true hunter, and catches her prey on that principle, and for pleasure. Dogs are universally subject to constipation, from the bones and solid substances on which they feed, and are peculiarly benefitted by purgative medicines, which are indeed of absolute necessity to the health of those kept in a state of luxury and indolence. Those well-known medicinal substances, *Sulphur* and *Calomel*, are absolute specifics on all common occasions, to both Dogs and Cats. The former may be given in water, for a length of time, until the animals, accustomed to it, will lose all aversion to the flavour.

Calomel may be given in milk, or concealed in a piece of meat, or bread and butter. Few persons need be reminded that, all young animals require good and liberal keeping, and that it is vain to expect high form, superior powers, or that which is of no slight consequence in the breeding system, *high price*, from starvation and neglect.

On the DISEASES of Dogs, and here again we may without violence bring in the Cat, since that also is liable, it is proper to commence with the DISTEMPER, to the early attack of which they are generally subject. It may be defined, a constitutional and critical disease, but irregular and uncertain in its access, numbers escaping it entirely, some being seized by it in their youth, others in their middle or old age, as the horse which has escaped the *Strangles* at five years old, shall have the *Vives* at ten. Indeed it may be not unaptly compared with the Strangles, in respect to natural principle and intent, but not effects, since it has no tendency to eruption, or external discharge of morbid matter. In the Distemper of Dogs, nature seems always disposed to evacuate the load through the common channels, which presents a greater facility, either of preventing or curing the disease. The Distemper is generally induced by some occasional cause—the atmospheric beyond all others. During sudden alternations of heat and cold, and in that kind of weather, commonly styled *influenzal*, affecting particularly the human breast and thorax, Dogs and Cats will be seized with the Distemper,

when it may become epidemic and contagious; with respect to the Cat, numbers of them will be affected at the same time, whether or not they acquire it from one and the same cause, or one from the other. Low keep and neglect, as Mr. Blane justly observes, and as I have witnessed, will either accelerate or produce the disease. It is said, that an animal will have this disease more than once. Viewing it as a critical effort of nature, to discharge a load from the constitution; such effort, in some subjects, may be more than once necessary; but it is also to be considered, that other diseases may assume the guise and symptoms of distemper, and moreover that is a very common thing, for the term distemper to be applied to any malady in the Dog, for which a more appropriate term cannot be found.

Few subjects have been treated more incongruously, and I conceive more erroneously, than that of the origin and effects of the disease in question; and that which enhances the strangeness and difficulty of the case, by persons of unquestionable experience. I must confess myself astonished, to find Mr. Daniel, in his Rural Sports, speaking of the Distemper in Dogs, as a disease which has been known in this country but about forty years. Astonished I may well say, because at that period, and even in the same district of Country in which Mr. Daniel then resided, I cannot recollect the slightest difference with respect to the Distemper, in comparison with the present time. Dogs were

subject to it, in the same manner, and in an equal degree, then as now; nor di<ever any thing less resemble a novelty—every one, young or old, who knew the Dog, knew also the *Distemper.* I have no conception of any era, which can be named for the commencement of this disease, believing it to have been originally bound up in the Volume of the Dog's nature; and I dare not take leave to doubt, if Mr. and Mrs. Adam kept a Dog, whether Sheep Dog, Mastiff or Comforter, that, in all probability, it had, in due season, the Distemper, whether or not the old Gentleman and Lady might have Veterinary skill sufficient to discover it.

Nor does Mr. Blane's quotation from the French *Encyclopédie*, appear a satisfactory confirmation of such a fact, as that the *Distemper* in Dogs was either non existent, or unknown upon the Continent a century ago. It refers to a periodical epidemic among Dogs, in all probability, distinct from the constitutional Distemper, of which the writers in that work, unversed in Canine Pathology, not then a fashionable study, may be very well supposed to have had little or no information. Periodical epidemic distempers in Dogs and Cats, or *Epizootics*, have been long recorded, and have occurred several times within the last forty or fifty years. The eruptive and pustular disease described by Mr. Blane, I have never seen, but suspect it ought to be differently classed.

As little has my attention been arrested by that wide spreading havoc and destruction among Dogs,

from the Distemper, second only to the Plague, noted by Mr. Beckford and Mr. Daniel; or by the other extraordinary circumstance they adduce, that "Canine Madness has not been so common, since the Distemper has made its havoc among the Species." Thus much has occurred to my general observation; *the* Distemper, or *a* Distemper has been periodically epidemic, as has probably always been the case; and there is an equal probability that memory, in general, serves more correctly, and with a more vivid impression, in respect to present and recent, than distant occurrences. The access, extent, and prevalence of disease, are always extremely irregular, and under the influence of controuling circumstances; and as to Canine Madness, I have neither heard of, nor perceived, any considerable difference in its extent, during the period alluded to. It seems always in existence in this country, but its noticeable attacks are generally periodical, to a greater or less extent, and usually most prevalent in some one, or two, or three particular Districts. In the chronic and putrid stage of the Distemper, as in those of other diseases, there can exist no doubt of its being infectious; but generally, and in common cases, I have never observed the slightest tendency to infection. I have, at this instant, before me, a patient under cure for the regular disease, and nearly convalescent.

A young Dog, exhibiting the following symptoms, may be fairly presumed under an attack of the Distemper: sudden loss of usual spirit and

activity, and of appetite; drowsiness, dullness of the eyes, and lying at length with the nose to the ground; coldness of the extremities, ears, and legs, and heat of the head and body, sometimes to the degree of scorching; sudden emaciation and excessive weakness, particularly in the hinder quarters, which begin to sink and drag after the animal; flanks pinched in; an apparent tendency to evacuate from the bowels, a little at a time, either *tenesmus*, or looseness; sometimes vomiting, are perhaps universal symptoms; eyes and nose often, but not always, affected with a catarrhal discharge; catarrh is, however, the most common exciting cause, as dissections have proved, from the inflammation of the mucuous and pituitary membranes; hence the Continental Veterinarians have from analogy, styled the *Distemper*, the *Glanders* of Dogs and Cats.

The Dog thus seized is, in thousands of instances, left to the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, to the efforts of nature, and the strength of his constitution, for a cure, which he often so obtains; and too often, in London, and it may be supposed, other great cities, he is most barbarously and inhumanly *lost*, in this state of bitter distress, to perish miserably in the open streets, that his brutal owner, who has profited by his health, may avoid the trouble of his disease. In an advanced stage of the Distemper, such symptoms will occur, as spasmodic and convulsive twitchings, the nervous and muscular systems being materially affected; giddiness and turning round, foaming at the mouth, and fits. The disease is

then often taken for incipient Madness, into which it might not improbably degenerate.

To address the common keepers of Dogs, the most rational advice which can be given them is, to discharge their diseased animals from a burdensome existence, by the easiest possible means, as soon as their maladies become of a very serious nature: with Sportsmen, and the Proprietors of valuable Dogs, the case is widely different; but even these I would dissuade from the too common practice of *quackery*, and of dabbling with Nostrums and pretended Specifics, the grossest and most ludicrous of all impositions and self-delusions; and most of all, from trusting to *knowing* Servants, the majority of which are doating idiots, or cunning knaves. Any Gentleman who has a turn for observation, may venture to prescribe in common and obvious cases; but when disease puts on a complicated and serious form, the attempt to encounter it, without the aid of professional knowledge and experience, is only to inscribe a new name in the unfathomable and endless list of self-deluders. Nor let any man suppose himself a whit the better qualified, because he has provided himself with a specific or a receipt. His only proper recourse is, to regular Professional Assistance.

In Distemper, the Dog will probably refuse all food for several days, and should be supplied with warm milk and water, gruel, broth, or whey; he should have the benefit of fresh air, at the same time particular care should be used, that his bed be warm and dry, and, if the weather be cold, his

inclination to lie and enjoy himself by the fireside should be moderately indulged. The most urgent symptoms must be first attended to, and those will generally be found, the symptomatic fever, and the irregular state of the stomach and bowels. Nature will appear as if making constant unsuccessful efforts to throw off an oppressive load. And although the fastidiousness of modern fashionable Science, does not permit the use of the antiquated term *morbific*, or *morbid* matter, nothing can better quadrate with the senses, than the actual existence of such matter, as is particularly exemplified by the present disease. That which is evacuated is in the highest degree fetid and *morbid*, and there is obviously a redundancy or load of it, and when that load is purged off, and the vital functions recovered and strengthened, the secretions regain their natural and regular state, and the evacuations become sound and healthful.

I have found daily mild doses of from two to three grains of Calomel alone, lapped by the animal in milk, continued for four or five days, with intermissions when necessary, fully sufficient to carry it safely through the disease, even when the fever has been very high. James's Powder has, however, always proved the most certain remedy, in fact, has been the sheet anchor, in the case; and as recent experiments of Mr. Want and others, have proved the *Pulvis Antimonialis*, Antimonial Powder, joined with Calomel, to be of a similar nature and equal efficacy, a discovery indeed recorded by Bartlet and Osmer, sixty years ago, the

expence of the Patent Medicine may be avoided, a consideration where many dogs are kept. The usual quantity of calomel in the composition, is about one quarter of the Antimonial Powder. From eight or ten, to fifteen or sixteen grains of this medicine, may be given to the patient, in balls, the size of a hazle nut, as above directed. The balls may be composed of treacle, or honey, and flour, and slightly rubbed over with fresh butter or lard. Castor Oil, a table spoonful or two; also a tea spoonful of powdered Rhubarb, with two or three grains of Calomel, have been found beneficial. With respect to Mercurials and Antimonials, it is a good rule, both with human and brute patients, to commence with small doses, which may be increased according to experience of the nature of the case, and the constitution of the patient. I have observed some of our Prescribers for the Dog, to be extremely liberal in their quantities of Calomel, the doses of which recommended, must inevitably salivate some of the patients, counteract the intention, and retard the cure. Mr. Blane's *Distemper Remedy*, with directions, ought no doubt to be viewed in a different light to common quack advertised medicines, as the prescription of a man of known experience and character; it is yet to be regretted, that the Compounder of it should usher it into the World in such terms, as, that—'it was a substance utterly unknown to Druggists.' A good joke enough to be sure, but a needless one. Every liberal man will agree that, Mr. Blane merited some remuneration for the labour

of so many years, and that to encourage the sale of his Medicine, is one of the best modes.

To recover the Dog from that state of debility, in which he is left both by the disease itself and the medicines, such good nourishment as he will take, is highly necessary, together with the assistance of Medicines of the cordial and corroborative class. Light flesh meat, and rich broths made of beef or neats feet, stand in the first class, also milk broth with rice. In some cases it may be necessary, to give balls of beef slack boiled, and bruised to a pulp in a mortar. Beer Cordial with ginger, and sweetened moderately, is used with success. The strengthening medicines in use, are laudanum; from twelve, to thirty or forty drops in a glass of Port Wine or sound Beer; or in a large tea-spoonful of Friar's Balsam, with four of water—to be given once or twice a day, for a week. Bark, in Port Wine or Beer, has been given with success—quantity, from one dram to two drams. Medicines of this class have been advised in the first stages of the Distemper, but I apprehend the evacuants and deobstruents ought to take the lead, and clear the way. The discharge from the nose and eyes, should be wiped away as much as possible, and the bed kept dry and clean. In his airings, the Dog should be encouraged to eat grass as usual, and lap in pure running water. When Dogs are taking Calomel they in general vomit sufficiently; but if it be necessary to give a vomit purposely, a large tea spoon, to a table spoon full of common Salt, in a tea-cup of warm water, will prove emetic;

or, Tartar Emetic, from one to four grains, in warm milk and water, or in a piece of meat. Dogs, kept in a state of luxury, and without exercise, are exceedingly subject to BILIOUS Complaints, and to hepatic obstruction and bilious suffusion, from hard exercise in sultry weather. Calomel is the best general remedy, but in particular cases and strong constitutions, Turpeth Mineral or Yellow Mercury, may be safely given, to the quantity of six to twelve grains, in a pill or ball. INNOCULATION for the Distemper may be referred to the *imagination* of the Practitioner. Prevention, the best of all cures, consists in the use of sulphur in the water as an alterant, occasional purgatives, air, and exercise, and free access to dog-grass.

In all, beyond common cases of Animal Disease, let me repeat, professional assistance should be early sought, with the addition, that, if no regular Veterinarian be at hand, the family Apothecary, or his Assistant, granting they will *volunteer*, are good substitutes; and with Blane's Book, or other respectable Veterinary Treatise in hand, they cannot be much at a loss, or in danger of falling into any considerable errors. And surely such is a proceeding more nearly allied to common sense, than the usual recourse to ignorance and imposture.

On the *Rabies Canina*, or Canine Madness, my collections within the last twenty years, have been somewhat extensive; and it is a subject on which I wish to find room for some general remarks. Perhaps Madness in Dogs, Mental Derangement in the human subject, and Pulmonary Con-

sumption, are more frequent and fatal in this, than in any other country. Are we to search for the cause in the Atmospheric Vicissitudes of our Climate, or in some peculiar quality in the composition of the air? Mr. Blane objects to the term madness, as to Dogs; but with whatever degree of reason, it is certain enough, this disease of Dogs has inspired a number of mortal men with a sort of speculative insanity. In the first place, *those* who have written so plainly, and with so much logical force, to prove that there is no such thing as Canine Madness; that the human patients bitten, receive the disease only in imagination, and that it is curable by an imaginary remedy! Next, *those* who fondly expect a cure of the most tremendous and fatal of all maladies, and which has baffled the most heroic and potent remedies, from obsolete Quack *Receipts*, bearing a *pr[illegible]atum est;* from compositions of the most simp[illegible] mild, and inefficacious articles, or from the use of certain merely customary practices, in which it is impossible to trace the most remote preventive or curative relation to the disease. Strange that the name of the learned and experienced Dr. Mead should be found in one of the above descriptions! Strange again, that we must implicate Mr. Blane, a member also of the *regulars*, and assuredly one whose practical experience has been greater than that of any other man, in the same happy predicament. At Mr. Daniel, as a non professional, we shall express no admiration in this affair, since Medicine

is one of the *twin* subjects, on which the most learned even, chuse, *cum ratione insanire*—to be stark mad, in the most voluntary and charming manner possible. Dr. Remnant's *confidence* too, it is much to be apprehended, will entitle him to a place, and that his German *brass* will prove to be nothing beyond a tinkling cymbal.

On this subject, Mr. Blane's Book, *Canine Pathology*, is intituled to precedence of all others; for, granting that he may be depended upon, which I shall not presume to doubt, he has verified or made several most important discoveries, as will appear on recourse to his pages. I only make free to state my opinion on some passages in his Book, and to appeal to his reconsideration. At page 123 he says—"The rabid malady, is, I believe, in every case fatal. I never met with an instance to the contrary, nor [illegible] I ever hear of an authenticated one. I have ca[illegible]ly tried every remedy that has ever been mentioned on any respectable authority, as well as numerous others on my own suggestion; but all with equal want of success." Words could not convey sense more strictly unconditional and positive, applicable also to the instant of time in which they were written, and thence to the ultimate point of the author's experience. And yet, maugre all this, we find Mr. Blane had been at Watford, and found in hands of a certain description, a specific for this incurable disease—*box, rue and sage;* articles possibly of more powerful action than Dr. Mead's liver-wort, but which I strongly

suspect, to be some infallible *Receipt*, transmitted from *Gervase Markham*, or some one of that date and kidney, and treasured up probably, by the Grandmother of the *Cottager*, to descend as an heir-loom to her posterity. Nay, for ought I can tell, it may be the identical Nostrum, or Cousin-German to it, which has had the honour of being hung up in Country Churches, and cured such numbers; more, perhaps, than were ever diseased. Mr. Blane tells us, with all due gravity, of many Patients who have taken this cottage remedy and escaped the infection; a tale which we have heard regularly, in favour of every old or new nostrum since the date of the far-famed and infallible Ormskirk Medicine. A Patient, not infected, may very well be made whole, either by faith or Powder of Post. The utmost harm wished by the present writer, to Mr. Blane is, that he were fairly out of this scrape.

To the Rev. Mr. Daniel, the same sentiments are respectfully addressed, on the point of WORMING the Dog, as a preventive to his power of using his teeth in the rabid state. This remedy, in Dr. Johnson's emphatic language, "the extraction of a substance, nobody knows what, and nobody knows why," was originally received on the authority of Pliny; and it was either Pliny, or one of his wonder-working Cotemporaries, who prescribed as a cure for the *Belly-Ache* in a Beast, the simple and easy mean of the patient beholding a duck swimming on the water! But an elder

of Pliny, Columella, if I recollect aright, had anticipated him, and forestalled all the knowledge and all the fame of this most important discovery, resolved on driving madness out of the Dog, either at one end or the other. This Sage thus instructs Posterity—"If a whelp's tail be bitten off, and the string taken away, neither will the tail grow again, nor will the dog ever go mad." At any rate, one limb of the proposition remains to this day, unbroken. He proceeds to explain, that, "there is a small *Worm* in the Tongue of Dogs, which, if taken out while they are young, they never go *mad*, nor lose their appetite." Until of late, we find, worming was to prevent *rabies* itself; that failing, we are to be content, it seems, with the power of incapacitating the Dog from biting, during his rabid fits. But on what ground of argument, bearing any kind of relation to *cause and effect*, is this power accounted for? How is it possible that the mere loss of a strip of skin, drawn from his tongue, which soon becomes whole, and remains unaffected by the operation, should prevent the closing his jaws after he shall have become rabid, and yet permit him to do so *ad libitum*, and perpetually whilst he is in health? This is not elective purgation in a medicine, but elective *bitation* in worming! Why does the tongue swell merely from the absence of the worm, unless in the old mode of accounting for events—*post hoc, ergo propter hoc?* Is it not full as rational to suppose that, from some, to us occult, symptomatic anomaly

in the disease, or at some particular stage, the tongue is too much swollen to admit the jaws to come together, at others not. Worm is, in all probability, in this case, a misnomer, the real and orthodox term being an ancient *maggot*. The fact is, there is no such thing as a worm in the *case*, which is the Dog's mouth; it is merely a portion of the frænum or bridle of the tongue, so often clipped by the scissars of the Nurse. "In the operation of worming," says Mr. Blane, "it is common to strip off this *frænum*, or bridle, from the tongue; the violence made use of in doing which, puts it on the stretch, so that when removed from the mouth, its recoil is adduced, as a proof that it is alive, and proves it a worm in the opinion of credulity." A worm, which I humbly conceive ought to rank with its brother *worm in the tail of a beast*—another *Pliny*, I believe, likewise; and with the *pip* at the end of the chicken's tongue. This *laidly* worm, however, has penetrated the *intellectuals* of thousands of his Majesty's liege subjects, and a Gentleman of late, who surely must need cutting for the simples, as much as our Dogs do worming against Rabies, has actually proposed to petition the Legislature, for a law to compel us all to mangle the tongues of our puppies!

But worming is at no rate a practice of yesterday in this country, however great a novelty its pretended success. Hear what Markham says on the matter, and mark well how the philosophy and

common sense of his directions *gibe* together. "January, February, and March are the best times for them, (Dog and Bitch) to be lined; and if they couple when the Moon is in *Gemini*, or *Aquarius*, you will have more dogs than bitches, and they will never run mad—when young, a little worm is subject to breed under their tongues, that makes them bark much; take it out with an awl, and it prevents them growing mad."—"It is said there are seven sorts of Madness in Dogs; the Dumb Madness, the Running, the Falling, the Lank, the Lean Madness, the Sleeping, the Slavering, and the hot burning Madness; and, in my opinion, the best and only Cure, is to knock them on the head for it." Notwithstanding this most rational opinion, Markham is no wise backward in prescription, ordering, among other curious articles, sow thistle, fat meat, filberts, dry figs, woman's milk, Calomel, wild tare seed, asses milk, child's piss, Garlic, *Rue*. But I have failed as yet, to trace the *Box*, infusions and decoctions of the leaves, flowers, and shavings of which, were favourite *sudorifics*, with certain of the old Physicians.

As another specimen of the Medical Learning and Talent of those old Writers on the subject of Dogs and Horses, the prescriptions of whom have been treasured up with so much care, and periodically sent abroad, as grand secrets and nostrums, the following quotations are submitted, of *Leonard Mascal*, who had the honour to be employed by

King James the First. "In Hounds and Dogs which fall mad, the cause is, that black choler hath the mastery in his body; which choler once roasted in them through vehement heat, it overcometh the body, and maketh him to run mad. For the black choler, which is so strong, infecteth his brain, and so from thence goeth to all the other members, and maketh him venemous." This is a *literal* transcription; hereafter follows a medicinal list equally wonderful—"Also Calamint, the seed of Wild Tares, Sea Onions, Water Cresses, Herbegrace, Salt, Aristolochia, Nuts with Rue, the roots of Asperage and the seed, *Balsamum*, Vinegar and the Milk of an Ass, a Child's Piss, the Stones of a Hedge Hog, the Stones of a Stag or an Ass dried and drunk; also *Castoreum*, garlic, gentian, mint, dittany. Here is choice for the Seekers, and for the charitable Fraternity and Sisterhood of Nostrum Mongers and Lady Bountifuls.

The following curious passage, to be found in both the above famous Authors, is a tolerably good exemplification of the degree of dependence to be placed on those miserable Collections which pass under their names. "A Bitch goes with whelp *eighty days*, and whelps are seven days blind. A Greyhound goeth *six weeks*, and they are blind twelve days."

The next Authority I shall adduce on the subject of the Worm, is of a very different character to the preceding—it is the well-known Dr. Bracken, who, although a most inelegant and vulgar writer, was a man of a strong and acute mind, of most

respectable attainments in Medical Philosophy, and of consummate skill as a Sportsman. The facetious Doctor, some seventy or eighty years ago, had just uttered that prophesy, which we have since found so correct, on Mrs. Stephen's Act of Parliament and infallible *Hodge-podge* for the cure of the Stone, when he thus introduces his opinion of the Worm on the Dog's Tongue.

"It is observable that young Horses have much stronger Appetites than those which are come to maturity; and it is the same in other Creatures, particularly *Dogs*, when young, will have voracious Appetites, insomuch that the common people imagine them troubled with what they call the *Hungry Worm* under the Tongue; whereas such craving Stomach proceeds from a natural cause, and will continue (if the Dog has his health) till such time as he arrives at his full growth; so that in the main, there is no such thing as the *Worm* under a Dog's Tongue, notwithstanding there are not wanting Proficients that will undertake to cure Dogs of such *canine Appetite*, and to pretend to draw out a *Worm* from under the Dog's Tongue; yet such thing is only a fibre or stringy substance, of the same nature as those under any Dog's tongue that is full of growth. I know the common story of the WORM under the *Tongue*; viz. that it not only causes a voracious appetite, but likewise, by stirring, gives such uneasy sensations to the Dog, that it makes him gnaw and tear every thing about him; but this proceeds rather from his playfulness as a

Whelp, and not from any such thing as a *Worm*." The words in italics are as the Dr. has given them.

To proceed to the last Act of this Worm Farce: where is the proof of the existence of a worm growing out of a Dog's tongue? where is the evidence that the fibrous or skinny substance, nick-named a worm, possesses any constitutional nervous, muscular, or fibrous influence in the case of *Rabies*, or Madness, so as to urge or assist him in the power of biting, prevent his tongue from swelling, or that its absence will deprive him of such power? It is always necessary that we have reason as well as facts, since the latter are so liable to misrepresentation and misconception, and had we a sufficiency of well-attested and well-marked cases, there can be no doubt that the unwormed equally with the wormed Dogs, when rabid, have had swollen tongues, which have prevented the closing of their jaws. And we do know, on good authority, that many Dogs which had been wormed have actually bitten and propagated *rabies*, within both the last and present years 1816 and 1817. Nevertheless, it is most willingly conceded, that all must submit to the imperious rule of *unanswerable* fact, and that the most acute and apparently soundest theory, may be utterly baffled by occult and inscrutable causes. Give us a sufficient and regular series of evidence, as to the efficacy of the practice, and we will gladly worm our Dogs, independently of all ideas of its rationality.

In order to obtain adequate ideas of this most

horrible and tremendous of all animal Maladies, the scientific, or any other enquirer, may have recourse to the *Medical Journal*, and more particularly in the years 1807 and 1812. In 1806 and 1807, Canine Madness prevailed greatly in this country, perhaps to as great a degree as in any two preceding or succeeding years. The weather in those years was particularly changeable and influenzal. In the Journal will be found a vast number of rabid cases, French and English, with Sabatier's Collection. The melancholy fact will also appear, that every supposed or popular remedy has failed in its turn, together with the most probable and powerful!—*Worming* the Dog—*submersion* in salt or fresh Water—*Dr. Mead's Remedy*—the *Ormskirk Medicine*—the *Tonquin Remedy*—*Turbith Root*—*Yellow Mercury*, or *Turbith Mineral*—*the Carnatic Pill*—*Mercurials* generally—*Musk*, *Opium*, *Camphor*—*Oil*—*Assafœtida*—*Destruction* of the bitten Parts by the *Knife*, *actual Cautery*, or *Caustics*. The Ormskirk and Dr. Mead's Remedies have been found entirely harmless and useless. Bleeding *ad deliquium*, or to fainting, has also failed. The notion imbibed from *Olivier's* Travels in the East, that *Rabies* in Animals is unknown in hot climates, is totally groundless, as the accounts from Bengal too fatally verify. *Doctor Tissot's* method of COPIOUS BLEEDINGS was, I believe, first revived at Calcutta, and improved upon by Mr. Tymon and *Dr. Shoolbred*. The late Mr. Meynell's Remarks are valuable, as

far as regards symptoms and facts. It was proposed by Dr. Mead, to revive the ancient practice recommended by *Celsus*, SUCKING of the wound by the patient himself, or another person, and averred, on experiment, that it may be done with safety. GALVANISM has been tried with apparent effect. Draughts of VINEGAR have been supposed successful. The late Dr. Rush of Philadelphia, strongly recommended LARYNGOTOMY, or an incision in the throat, to obviate the hydrophobic symptom, by the conveyance of liquids through the orifice; a plan as strongly ridiculed by Mr. Ward, about the year 1809, who insists that in *Rabies*, when deglutition is even possible, it is attended with such painful horrors, that no medicines, at any rate no liquids, should ever be administered by the mouth, but by the mode of *enema*.

It is the fashion to decide that, *Rabies* in the Dog, cannot be SPONTANEOUS, or cannot arise, independently of the bite of another rabid animal. This notion, perhaps, originates in the apprehension of otherwise contravening the received axiom in Physics, *omnia ab ovo*—every thing must originate in *seed*. But the seed of *Rabies* may be introduced into the constitution of the Dog, by methods with which we are totally unacquainted, as well as by the rabid bite. As we have already observed, Madness in Dogs and Cats is periodical; you shall hear nothing of it for several seasons; suddenly, an animal, which has not stirred from home, nor come near any one known or suspected

to be mad, and on which there is not the slightest vestige of a bite, shall become rabid, bite others, and propagate the infection throughout a whole District.

All the World knows, that Dr. Mead wrote ably on Animal Poisons, notwithstanding his unaccountable confidence in that inoffensive lichen *ash-coloured Liverwort*, and the excellent culinary article, Black Pepper, taken in four doses, with cold bathing. But the Doctor either has, or ought to have rendered a service to mankind, which he surely did not meditate, that of teaching them to be very chary of their confidence in *Nostrums*, even those of the most respected authority. The good Doctor professes, that "IN THE SPACE OF THIRTY YEARS, HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY OF GIVING HIS PLAN A TRIAL, NO LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND TIMES, WITH UNIFORM SUCCESS!" Most unfortunately for poor suffering humanity, Dr. Mead, and the success of his remedy, died, and were buried together, never to rise again, until the general rising. His Book furnishes a specimen of the horrible and appalling, which I would advise every reader to pass over, who does not possess some firmness of nerve:—

"A Young Man was bitten by a Mad Dog, and married the same morning. He spent, as is usual, that whole day, till late in the night, in mirth, dancing, and drinking; in the morning, he was found, in bed, raving mad—his Bride, horrible spectacle! dead by him; her belly torn open with

his teeth, and her entrails twisted round his bloody hands. The heat of the blood and spirits, from excess of exercise and wine, but more, perhaps, from the transports of passion, in the first fury of conjugal embraces, had, no doubt, in this calamity, given such advantage to the venom, that its power was raised to a greater degree, in less than twenty-four hours, than, in common accidents of this kind, it acquires in as many days."

But proper persons should recollect, or read this sorrowful story, with the patriotic resolution of each doing all in his individual power, first, in the PREVENTION of this fatal scourge, and next, in counteracting all foolish and indolent confidence in useless and trumpery remedies and practices, and strongly urging the indispensible necessity of the most active and potent remedies, from the hands of learned and professional men.

It has been the custom of late, to question the authenticity of those relations, as to the smothering rabid patients between two feather-beds. But Mr. Daniel relates an instance of the fact, at no great distance of time, for which the parties were tried in court, and acquitted; and I have no doubt that many such instances have occurred in former days, and no enquiry been instituted. Among others, I heard of one in an adjoining Parish to Diss, in Norfolk. According to common report, a Child, the son of a Serjeant at the Queen's Guard House, was, in August 1811, bitten by a mad dog, and ten days after the bite, became rabid, and

barked like a dog; the case being deemed a lost one, it was held necessary to bleed the child to death. Customs vary, and refinement advances, as time rolls on; and if a certain late Medical Writer of great experience, is to be credited, *Laudanum*, in extraordinary Doses, has been found an efficacious prescription in certain extraordinary cases.

The following MEMORANDA may prove useful, by refreshing the memories of those, who are desirous of making researches into this painful, but most important subject. The Viper Catcher, in 1734, suffered himself, in the presence of many Members of the Royal Society, to be bitten by a Viper, and delaying the application of the presumed antidote to the viperine poison, OLIVE OIL, an hour and a quarter, the symptoms became violent and alarming, yet the Patient was cured, *principally* by the external and internal use of Oil; which remedy, however, failed on a succeeding trial by the French Academy of Sciences, at Paris. Dr. Mead, on *second* consideration, pronounced the effect of animal Poisons to be entirely *nervous* and *spasmodic*; and *Girard*, long since, on *Tetanus Rabiensis*, advanced that, "the saliva in rabid animals is not infectious, the disease consisting in the nervous irritation occasioned by the bite, as wounds will occasion Tetanus." An opinion to be received with great caution, or rather perhaps to be entirely rejected. Dr. Hamilton, in his Treatise, recommends the potential Cautery—the

vegetable alkaline caustic, prepared in the usual way, with lime, the most powerful of caustics; which, however, has been found entirely inefficacious in France, where they find no remedy to be relied on, but the actual cautery, and complete extirpation of the parts with an iron at a white heat. In 1811, (Medical Journal), a Cow was bitten by a mad dog. The owner having a bottle of Antimonial Wine, poured the whole down the Cow's throat, which produced perspiration in streams, and it was supposed, saved the beast. In washing the wound from a rabid bite, surely Soap and Water should be used, instead of fair water, from the powerfully detersive, and other qualities of soap. Sabatier says—there must be predisposition in the habit, to a reception of the *virus*, or the rabid disease will not follow the bite; thence so many escape, whilst some are affected; and thence so many *presumed* cures. It has been said, that a Man may have attended an immense number of supposed rabid Patients, without seeing a single case of *rabies Canina;* but it may be too pointedly replied—the number of marked and incontestible cases have been fully sufficient. It has been said also—Canine Madness is an innoculated Disease; *virus* conveyed into the system by the same channel as Small Pox and *Lues Veneria;* and a removal of the saliva, or infecting fluid, by *assiduous ablution*, and *extensive excision* of the bitten parts, as certainly will prevent *Hydrophobia*, as an *early* application of the same means to an

innoculated arm, would prevent *Variola*. This, applicable only to the recent injury, is yet comfortable. The length of time between the Bite of a rabid Dog and the access of the Disease, sometimes six or seven weeks, at others twelvemonths or upwards, together with the fact, that the bite of a Rattle-snake has been mortal to a Dog *in less than a quarter of a minute*, seem to indicate that, absorption of the *virus* into the system, from the bite of the Dog, is not *instantaneous*, as has been sometimes supposed, but that a certain period is necessary, dependent upon idiosyncracy of the Patient's system, and other contingencies—hence another source of hope and comfort—hence the vast importance of copious bleeding, ablution, and excision in the first instance, and the only hope *en dernier resôrt* in the most potent antispasmodics and repellers of poison. The old notion that the pregnant Bitch is insusceptible of *Rabies* is groundless, like so many others (Medical Journal, Vol. xx. p. 400). Said to be doubtful, whether a Dog ever lived four days after the real affection of *Rabies*, or whether a rabid Patient, human, or brute ever *slept*. The latter doubt, at any rate, is in itself doubtful. *Hydrophobia* and *Tetanus* radically different (Medical Journal, Vol xxix. p. 272). In the same volume, a case, in which excision failed, but cure obtained from bleeding, *ad deliquium*, twice, and the exhibition of *Opium* and *Calomel*, with James's Powder. In the thirty-first volume, an unsuccessful case—the bitten parts

excised, Mercury exhibited to salivation, the disease yet appeared after five weeks, *although there were no signs of ill health in the Dog*, by which the patient was bitten; the warm bath, bleeding, *ad deliquium*, *Opium*, afforded some relief at first, prostration of strength succeeded, accelerating the crisis of the disease. See Vol. xix. p. 118, for successful cures of *Rabies*—of Robert Dickson, in 1761, and of Elizabeth Bryant, whose case was published by the late Dr. Nugent, of Bath; Dickson's case was published, in 1807, by Dr. Turnbull. These two were then said to be the most decisive and satisfactory cures in the Annals of British Medicine. The application, in the first case, of *a plaister* to the throat, composed of *Opium*, *Camphor*, *Assafœtida*, and *Gum Galbanum*, deserves particular attention; also, most especially the cure performed by Mr. Hicks, of Herts. to be referred to in Volume xvii. page 271 U. S. In conclusion, a GENERAL REFERENCE on this subject, for the last twenty-five years, is a *desideratum*.

It is time, to treat specifically and definitively of PREVENTION, that best and most profitable of all human defensive efforts, yet little regarded by the bulk of Mankind, who ever value their trouble at a far higher rate than their salvation, for which they generally choose to pay in trust. *Procul este prophani!*—the following admonitions are addressed to the reflecting few.

The DISTEMPER, it has been observed, may be

prevented, or at least its attack rendered mild, and scarcely perceptible, by proper regimen, and the periodical use of laxative and cooling medicines. I have spoken of this Disease as an accumulation of *morbid* matter, which it is necessary for the Constitution to shake off, and there is a Case on record, which seems strongly to countenance such opinion. Glysters were administered every four or five hours, to a young Pointer, when, at last, after a succession of severe strainings for some minutes, an entire mass was ejected, consisting of all kinds of substances which the animal might be supposed to have picked up, in his search for food, during his whole growing period; namely, half-digested hay and straw, matted hair, particles of bone, sand and gravel, the whole cemented together so exceedingly compact, that the mass had the appearance of having been moulded by art. Considering the natural voraciousness of the Dog, and his modes of feeding, whether at large upon the search for food, or in confinement with plenty, he is ever subject to *intestinal accumulation*, and consequent general obstruction, the remote causes, probably, of idiopathic or spontaneous Madness, the probable existence of which, the present writer sees no reason to question. On this ground we may derive encouragement to hope, that Madness itself might be prevented by a careful regimen, or divested of some part of its horrors. The Disease, although termed Madness, appears to have little or no connection with the *mind* of the ani-

mal or the human patient, being merely an involuntary spasmodic, nervous, and muscular affection, of which the patients themselves appear sensible; the blood even, as is averred, remaining unaffected.

With respect to other branches of the subject of Prevention, the first to be considered is, a caution on the monstrous folly of bringing up supernumerary and useless Puppies, to be wantonly thrown on the Public, the heirs of starvation and misery, probably of Madness! The imprudence too, of keeping Dogs for no useful purpose, and of encouraging young and idle persons in the same improper practice. Stray and homeless Dogs and Cats should never be suffered in Town or Country, but be disposed of, or immediately destroyed by the *Beadle*, or some person appointed for the purpose. In October, 1808, the Lord Mayor of London issued a Notice to the Public, stating, that much damage had been done in the Country by Mad Dogs, directing all persons to keep their Dogs confined, and stating a meditated consultation, with a view to some necessary regulations on the subject: necessary most truly, but which, it may be presumed, have never yet been agreed upon, far less carried into effect. In case of a Dog *running*, really mad, or being *driven* from suspected madness, the first want is of some regulation, in towns, but London more especially, to prevent the usual concourse of the idle and profligate, who, in the Metropolis, seem to enjoy this *fun*, from their

thoughtlessness and ignorance, with equal relish as they do a Bullock Hunt. They want but *Instruction*, the universal and perpetual need. The good-natured Oliver Goldsmith, in his Essays, has touched this subject with his light and elegant hand, in a mode, however, which discovers that he had not thought very seriously thereon. He seemed to suppose that, at the time he was writing, the apprehension of *Rabies* infinitely exceeded the reality; and, according to my remembrance, we have had much more of it since, than existed at that period. He thus flourishes on his Theme—

"A Dread of Mad Dogs is the Epidemic Terror which now prevails, and the whole nation is at present actually groaning under the malignity of its influence. The People sally from their houses, with that circumspection which is prudent in such as expect a Mad Dog at every turning. The Physician publishes his Prescription, the Beadle prepares his Halter, and a few of unusual bravery arm themselves with Boots and Buff Gloves, in order to face the enemy, if he should offer to attack them. In short, the whole People stand bravely upon their defence, and seem by their present spirit, to shew a resolution of being tamely bit by Mad Dogs no longer.

"Their manner of knowing whether a Dog be mad or not, somewhat resembles the ancient Gothic Custom of trying Witches. The old woman suspected was tied hand and foot, and thrown into the Water. If she swam, then she

was instantly carried off to be burnt for a Witch; if she sunk, then indeed she was acquitted of the Charge, but drowned in the experiment. In the same manner, a crowd gather round a Dog suspected of Madness, and they begin by teazing the devoted animal on every side. If he attempts to stand upon the defensive, and bite, then he is unanimously found guilty, for 'a Mad Dog always snaps at every thing.' If, on the contrary, he strives to escape by running away, then he can expect no compassion, for 'Mad Dogs always run straight forward before them.'

"Were most stories of this nature well examined, it would be found, that of numbers of such as have been actually bitten, not one in a hundred was bit by a Mad Dog. But even allowing three or four to die in a season of this terrible death, (and four is probably too large a concession), yet still it is not considered, how many are preserved in their health and their property by this devoted animal's services. The Midnight Robber is kept at a distance—the insidious Thief is often detected; the healthful Chase repairs many a worn constitution; and the poor man finds in his Dog a willing Assistant, eager to lessen his toil, and content with the smallest retribution.

"Of all the Beasts that graze the Lawn, or hunt the Forest, a Dog is the only animal that, leaving his fellows, attempts to cultivate the friendship of Man; to man he looks, in all his necessities, with a speaking eye for assistance; exerts for him all

the little service in his power with cheerfulness and pleasure; for him bears famine and fatigue with patience and resignation; no injuries can abate his fidelity; no distress induce him to forsake his benefactor; studious to please, and fearing to offend, he is still an humble, stedfast dependent; and in him alone fawning is not flattery. How unkind then to torture this faithful creature, who has left the Forest to claim the protection of Man! How ungrateful a return to the trusty animal for all its services!"

As to the Disease, it is plain that Goldsmith, a thing to be expected from a man of his turn, leaned powerfully to one side of the question. It is a most inhuman and profligate act, where it can be avoided, to turn out an animal under circumstances of disease and distress. In 1807, a family in London, drove out of their house a Cat, which shewed strange symptoms of disease, instead of performing a bounden duty in destroying it. The sad consequence was, that Mrs. Chandler, a humane neighbour, gave shelter to the forsaken animal in its distress, was bitten by it, and, notwithstanding the best medical assistance, died rabid! I have seen a Cat, during an interval or suspension of the disease, and whilst *purring*, and being caressed, seized with a sudden spasmodic or rabid impulse, make attempts to bite; a kind of fit succeeded, from which the Animal recovered, and became kind as before, afterwards relapsing.

Dr. Bardesley, in 1809, proposed a plan of

Quarantine for Mad Dogs. A certain person boasted that, "he had sufficient firmness to resist the popular cry, and to save his Dog, which had bitten two children." Such *firmness*, however, might too soon acquire the name of an antisocial and unpardonable temerity, with the addition of bitter repentance. Favouritism ought never for a moment to stand in competition with human safety; not to say merely in matter of life and death, but at the risk of the most horrible of all deaths! This remark will be understood to apply to those who *madly* run the risk and suffer their Dog, suspected however, to be at large; but in another view, it may be of the greatest consequence, to preserve the life of a suspected Dog, by which animals or persons have been bitten, for satisfaction, and as a guide to the medical attendants, although by no means an infallible one. Such Dog should be placed in the safe custody of proper persons, and when no longer wanted, *be put out of life*, since the risk is certainly too great, and not at all consonant with public justice, to preserve any animal which has once shewn rabid symptoms. The bodies of the Mad Dogs destroyed, should be dissected by Veterinary Anatomists, in order to leave no mode untried of attaining every possible addition to our stock of knowledge of the Disease. The Beadle, or *Heward* of the Parish, should have a satisfactory extra allowance, to encourage him to a strict performance of the duties of this business; and if, in large towns, men were to be found, who would, for

a small fee, deprive animals of life, in a skilful and easy manner, it would be a great convenience to those, who finding their Dogs and Cats burdensome, can devise no better remedy than to discharge that burden upon the Public. When *influenzal* Weather has lasted for any length of time, affecting human Patients with *Catarrhal* Fever, *Sore Throat, Opthalmia*, and other usual concomitants, but more especially, if such a state of the Atmosphere should occur in two or three successive, or nearly successive Seasons, Madness and Epizootics in Dogs and Cats, Horses, and other Cattle, may be expected, on the almost invariable experience of former times.

Let the Reader reflect but a moment, on the indescribable horrors of a human being suffering under *Rabies and Hydrophobia*, with the desperate chance of cure, and then judge of the importance of the following counsel :—" Every one should avoid familiarity with strange Dogs, and never trust or fondle any Dog, *when he shall have deviated from his general appearances or habits, or is out of health.*" These maxims should be strongly inculcated upon the minds of all children and young persons. Dr. Percival advises all persons, the *moment* they receive the bite of a rabid or suspected animal, to apply to the first spring, brook, pool, or ditch ; and as water is generally within our reach, the wound may be easily cleansed. This he urges to be diligently persevered in till a surgeon arrive to excise the parts. Perhaps the most efficacious

preventive remedy would be, for the Patient to suck the wound instantly and powerfully, if within reach, frequently washing the mouth; afterwards to continue washing the wound.

In Kennels of Hounds, or wherever a number of dogs are kept together, it ought to be an invariable rule with the Superintendant, to separate instantly those individuals which manifest symptoms of serious indisposition, and place them in proper and comfortable sick quarters. Contagion soon arises and spreads among a number of animals, perhaps at first slightly indisposed, but the disease is nourished and exalted by the impurity of their own atmosphere; especially in the case of neglect in the important points of air and cleanliness, or want of room. Hence it has so often happened that, the *Distemper* in young Dogs, has been suffered to become côntagious and fatal in Kennels, whilst, at the same time, the Proprietors of a single Dog or two, have known no other trouble from this constitutional disease in their animals, than a few days' or a week's slight indisposition; and hence the loud outcry, already *condescended* upon, as our Scotch Brethren phrase it, about the fatal and contagious nature and effects of that *new Plague*, the Distemper in Dogs.

YARD DOGS, from their constant confinement and want of exercise, are liable to *plethora*, or superabundance of blood, and all the animal secretions. Occasionally, dangerous accidents occur from this cause. Last year, a Dog of this descrip-

tion, which had been closely confined during several years, was suddenly seized with spontaneous and raging Madness; broke his chain, and foaming at the mouth, and exhibiting all the usual symptoms of *rabies*, tore every thing in pieces within his reach. Fortunately, a loaded gun being at hand, he was shot before he had done any serious mischief. These confined animals should have frequent laxatives, as already directed. In a considerate view, it is not a kind-hearted thing to keep a wretched animal the whole of his days enchained, and within sight of his happy fellows, *male and female*, enjoying themselves at large. A *spaded* Mastiff Bitch is to be preferred for this purpose, and after all, *Barkers* are far more useful than the fiercest Keepers, of which no well-informed and regular Thief has the slightest apprehension.

A cure for *Hydrophobia* has lately appeared in the Public Prints, wearing some appearance of novelty. "M. Von Mone (of Hanover) has succeeded in curing all cases of *Hydrophobia*, by means of oxygenated muriatic acid, employed both internally and externally; which proves, that in this malady, the moral, hold in dependence, the physical pains. All cases of *tardy hydrophobia* may be considered as the effect of imagination. Examples have occurred of the disease reaching its last stage, when it has been completely dissipated by the sight of the animal by which the patient was bitten." The present writer cannot help suspecting that Mynheer Von Mone himself

has been *bitten*, although not by a Mad Dog. Vinegar, also, on the same authority, has lately proved a specific in Italy, for *Hydrophobia:* a Patient in the Hospital, at Padua, having been perfectly cured in a single day, by drinking three pint or pound doses of Vinegar, at three times, morning, noon, and night. Vinegar was formerly used in this case as an external application. Salt and water is supposed to have proved beneficial as an ablution, the wound being afterwards filled with salt.

RHEUMATISM may well be supposed a frequent affection of Sporting Dogs, which suffer so many extremes of heat and cold. The general indisposition is not always so obvious, but the local affection, and sometimes swelling in the neck, loins, or legs is sufficiently apparent. The disease is produced by cold changes of the wind; and some Dogs are peculiarly liable, others seem totally insensible of it. Very tender Dogs are scarcely worth keeping. The only method of proceeding in the case, is to oppose the first attack, and by no means to suffer an animal to go into the field, under the influence of the disease, or with a cold upon him, which is the ready way to subject him to habitual and chronic Rheumatism. Warm lodging, and two or three days indulgence near a good fire, according to General Hanger's plan, with a dose or two of Calomel, will generally repel a first attack. A warm Bath for a quarter of an hour, the patient being afterwards rubbed dry, and put

into a good bed, is one of the most effectual remedies, and may be repeated several times. Forty or fifty drops of laudanum, and two tea-spoons full of spirit of Ammonia, or hartshorn, in warm beer, or beer cordial, make a good perspirative, or sweating medicine: Mr. Blaine recommends to embrocate the affected parts, two or three times a day, with the following Recipe: Oil of Turpentine, two ounces; Spirit of Hartshorn, two ounces; Laudanum, two drams; Sweet Oil, two ounces. Mix.—The best PURGE for a Dog, is Succotrine, or fine Aloes; the dose, half a dram for a small Dog, to nearly a dram; for a full-sized Hound, two or three drams. Envelope the powder in a ball of flour and lard, or butter. It should be observed, that it is an erroneous practice to give sulphur or antimony, as *purges*, in which quick and brisk operation is required; those articles acting slowly in their proper character of alteratives.

MANGE, the *Itch* of the human subject, is generally the disease of neglect and want of cleanliness; too often of poverty and want of sufficient nourishment to preserve the blood and juices in a healthful state. If the animal be poor and low, external applications and nourishing food are the chief dependence; if the reverse, and surfeited, Calomel and the most powerful alteratives are required. *Æthiop's Mineral*, however, which includes the Sheet Anchors in this case, *Mercury* and *Sulphur*, is perhaps the best alterative medicine, and Mr. Blaine's form perfectly well adapted.

R.—Æthiop Mineral, one ounce; cream of Tartar, one ounce; nitre, two drams. Divide this mass into sixteen, twenty, or twenty-four doses, according to the size of the dog, giving *one* every morning and evening. With respect to the first, or weak class of patients, sulphur in their drink will be sufficient, with an occasional purge, should it be necessary, of an ounce, or upwards, of Salts, or two or three spoonfuls of Syrup of Buckhorn. For the external application, nothing is so effectual as Mercurial Unction, mild or strong; but care must be taken not to salivate the patient, nor suffer him to lick himself, nor catch cold, which may be fatal. Ointment of sulphur and lard only may succeed in a slight case. The following has been used with effect—Roll Brimstone powdered, four ounces; powdered Foxglove, two ounces; Sal Ammoniac powdered, half an ounce; Barbadoes Aloes, one dram; Turpentine, half an ounce; Lard, six or eight ounces. Mix.—Mr. Blaine's directions are so excellent, and fully demonstrative of experience, that nothing can be done in this place so much for the reader's advantage as to copy them. "In the use of OINTMENTS, it is necessary to remark, that they are too apt to be smeared over the hair, without being applied to the skin. It requires at least two hours to *dress* a dog thoroughly: the hair should be parted almost hair by hair, and a small quantity of ointment should be rubbed actually on the skin, between the parted hairs, by means of the end of the finger. After every part

is done, the hair may be smoothed down, and the Dog will appear, when the operation has been neatly managed, as though nothing had been applied. After three or four dressings in this way, the Dog may be washed with soft soap and water, and the ointment again applied till the cure is complete." It should be remembered to *muzzle* Dogs under this operation, and to be extremely cautious that they are not put into damp lodgings, or suffered to incur the risk of taking cold. The same ointments may be applied to eruptions, or *Canker* in the Ear. In case eruptions from the Ear, a mixture of brandy and soft soap is recommended to be poured into the ear, and well rubbed into the external parts; one third part water may be sometimes necessary, and care should be taken to guard the Dog's *eyes*. Every one is aware of the infectious nature of the Mange, and that a healthy Dog may become infected by the slightest contact; the effluvia also from infected dogs, so extremely pungent and disgusting, may be attended with a degree of danger to the health of persons much exposed.

A certain Dealer, a few years since, purchased part of a Pack of Hounds; but not finding a ready sale, starved and neglected them, until they were afflicted with the Mange, and then turned them out to free quarters in a populous neighbourhood. This is mentioned to state the necessity of immediate interference, in case of the recurrence of so gross an impropriety.

Fits and Convulsions in young Dogs generally bear some relation to the Distemper, and require the treatment recommended in that case, with the addition of cold water thrown upon the animal, to be rubbed dry. Fits, from high keep and want of exercise, in course, require bleeding and evacuants. A Dog, subject to frequent and dangerous convulsions, should either have professional assistance, or an easy passport to another state of existence.

Worms.—The Dog's coat will stare, his appetite be excessive, without producing any improvement, his belly hard, and sometimes swelled, with a short husky cough. These, and other well known appearances, indicate worms, or a state of body which requires alterative medicines. A purge may be first given, of the usual dose of fine Aloes, with the addition of from two to six or eight grains of Calomel. Two or three days after, a course of vermifuge medicines should commence. R.—the finest Tin filings, two drams; Cowhage, half a dram; Calomel, fourteen grains: to make four, six, or eight balls, according to the size or constitution of the Dog, giving one every morning for a fortnight, with occasional omissions, if necessary; the patient, in the interim, being comfortably lodged, and kept on a sufficiency of good wholesome food. Or one or two large spoonfuls of Linseed Oil, with a tea-spoonful of Oil of Turpentine, given every morning fasting, for a week, will sometimes have full effect. Lord

Coleraine has given, with success, Walnut leaves boiled in milk. When Worms are constitutional in the animal, the only remedy consists in the periodical use of medicine; and on the whole, the chief dependence in this case, is on *Mercurials* and *Antimonials*, whether in the brute or human patient; the constitution being adequately repaired by good keep and restoratives after the vermifuge course.

WOUNDS.—The best general healing application is Friar's Balsam, or its substitute to be had at the Druggists, cheaper and equally efficacious. Or a spoonful of Brandy, with a few drops of Laudanum. Thorns and splinters should be carefully extracted, and wounds kept clean. Poultice, or a black Pitch Plaister, the best remedies to extract thorns. Tincture of Myrrh-Aloes is often preferable to Friar's Balsam, in the early stage of the wound, the Balsam being apt to harden, and close the parts too soon.

SWELLED TEATS.—Rub with a pomade made of Goose-grease and Camphorated Spirit or Brandy, two or three times a day.

SORE FEET, from travel or hardness of the ground, are often inflamed by the use of brine. Butter Milk, greasy Pot Liquour, or Water Gruel, are the best applications. Brine and Vinegar will harden them, should that be required. The Dog should be kept at home, until his feet are recovered, or they should be wrapped up.

CROPPING.—They who wantonly crop Dogs

and nick Horses, were retributive justice to take place, would themselves be cropped and nicked. If from any puppyish notion, the Puppy must be cropped, the operation ought not to be performed until the fourth or fifth week of its age, and then with a sharp pair of scissars; never, in a country of common sense and humanity, by the senseless method of tearing or twisting off the ears, by whirling the Animal round, one of the knowing tricks of that rabble, of whom I have occasionally made not honourable mention. Never, if possible, suffer the Bitch to lick the wounded ears, increasing the pain, and retarding the healing. In case of inveterate scab in the Ears, Cropping may be a radical cure. Ears torn in the hedges may be touched with Laudanum and Brandy, intermediately with Oil.

FLEAS.—Constant cleanliness, the preventive remedy. Lather the coat throughout well, to the skin, with the strongest soap, adding pearl ash if necessary, taking care to *kill* all the vermin within reach. Wash clean. The most numerous host of Fleas can never withstand due repetitions of this practice.

CASTRATION and SPADING.—These may be sometimes necessary, and are probably cruel no farther than the pain of the operation, since that deprives the animal of all future desire of sexual enjoyment, a position which applies, in an especial manner, to the Horse, to which perhaps castration is an act of charity. The fashion of spading or

spaying Mares, has long since become obsolete. Mr. Blaine remarks, that spaying renders Bitches indolent and useless; but such was not the ancient opinion; on the contrary, they were, in old time, esteemed the fiercest of their species, as witness the ancient story, at Tolleshunt Knights, in Essex, of the Knight who contended with the Devil, on the point of where Barn Hall should be built; answering the question of his sable Majesty, during the respites of their fierce combat, as to who helped him—

God and myself, and my two spayed Bitches!

This operation, with respect to the Dog and Cat, may be safely performed by any one of those skilful and profound personages, Leeches, Dog-Doctors, or Farriers—

No Sow-gelder could blow his Horn
To geld a Cat, but cried, reform!

HUDIBRAS.

And reformed I wish these our modern adepts were, of their *knavish* tricks and pretending ignorance; more still, that those above them, were reformed of the foolery of putting confidence in such counsellors.

MODE OF ADMINISTERING REMEDIES.—Mr. Blaine is doubtless the best Guide on this head.—"Place the dog upright on his hind legs, between the knees of a seated person, with his back inwards: a very small dog may be taken altogether into the

lap. Apply a napkin round his shoulders, bringing it forward over the fore legs, by which they become secured from resisting. The mouth being now forced open by the pressure of the fore-finger and thumb upon the lips of the upper jaw, the medicine can be conveniently introduced with the other hand, and passed sufficiently far into the throat to insure its not being returned. The mouth must now be closed, and kept so, until the matter given is seen to pass down. When the animal is too strong to be managed by one person, another assistant is requisite to hold open the mouth, which, if the subject is very refractory, is best effected by a strong piece of tape, applied behind the holders or fangs of each jaw. The difference of giving liquid and solid medicines is not considerable; a ball, or bolus should be passed completely over the root of the tongue, and dexterously pushed some way backwards and downwards. When a liquid remedy is given, if the quantity is more than can be swallowed at one effort, it should be removed from the mouth, between each deglutition, or the dog may be strangled. The head should also be completely secured, and a little elevated, to prevent the liquid from again running out. Balls of a soft consistence, and those compounded of nauseous ingredients, should be wrapped in silver, or other thin paper. Tasteless Medicines, Calomel, &c. or the purging salts, may be frequently given in the food."

Exercise and Condition.—No dog can re-

main in health or free from the danger of disease without exercise. Those kept in the House should have daily exercise abroad, not by being merely turned out into the cold, to stand shivering at the door, imploring by his looks, a friendly *rat tat* from each passenger; but in some kind of pleasing mode, either by play with a companion of his own species, or at fetching and carrying, or running after a ball. To Sporting Dogs, CONDITION the result of Exercise, is absolutely necessary; nothing can better exemplify which, than the common fact of neglected Greyhounds, however good in nature, being beaten hollow by the Hares, and failing to kill, at the commencement of the Season, and acquitting themselves so much better as the Season, advances, and when they have had the benefit of work. The Dog, like the Race-Horse, should be cleansed by several Aloetic Purges, previously to being exercised for the Field. A judicious and nourishing course of diet, is equally necessary; and the height of condition will generally be apparent in the fineness of the coat, all specific *receipts* for the fining of which, are, at least, as full of futility as of use.

DIET.—Blaine makes a remark on this subject, full of point and of use: "It is curious that the want of food and the excess of it, should both produce the same disease"—namely, the *Mange*. The dog is strictly a carnivarous animal, and in order to his natural and due repletion, should have animal food once a day, although many are kept for a

considerable period, on vegetable diet only. The most salubrious method is, constantly to allow them both. The practice of the Metropolis fully ascertains the salubrity of Horse Flesh to Dogs and Cats. I have been accustomed to give Barley or Oatmeal, with half fine Pollard, and Potatoes, boiled up together, the wash of the Kitchen being added. Oatmeal is far preferable to Barley, and Mr. Beckford is right in his opinion of the still superior quality of Wheat Meal. A meal of this *bouilli* may be given by itself, or Flesh may be boiled with it, or a lump of Tallow-Chandler's *Graves*. Two meals a day should be the standard custom, the animals, according to nature's impulse, being allowed to rest, and never urged to work, immediately after a meal. Greens, Carrots, and Parsnips, boiled with the soup, form a good scouring for Dogs, rendered too hard bound in their bodies from high-feeding. On feeding Dogs, or any Animals, attend to the weak, that they may not be deprived of their share by their stronger fellows. Sheeps' trotters and Sheeps' heads, stand in very ancient recommendation, as most nourishing food for Dogs, making, with Oatmeal or Pollard, excellent soup.

Among a number of absurdities, in those medlies, published under the delusive name of RECEIPTS, mostly gleaned from old Books, and of which the Prescriber is seldom any thing more than the *Transcriber*, we find a pipe of Shot ordered for a "Hovering in the Dog's Lights!" A disorder

which no doubt the Doctor can discover most acutely and discriminately. To cause ABORTION in the Bitch is needless cruelty, since her period of Gestation is so short, and her Constitution is ever in danger from the necessary power of the Medicine employed. It is no less cruel to *kill* a Dog by poison, when a discharge of the Gun will do it so easily. The most lenient and convenient method to kill a CAT is, to tie it up fast in a strong *Bag*, strike it two or three times effectively on the head, and then immerse it in a full pail of water, holding it down with a spade and old broom, or other such implements. Dogs may be BLED in the Jugular or Neck Vein, to the quantity of from one or two, to eight ounces.

The present is as fit a place as any, for a remark on the curious propositions and pretensions, which *preface* a late publication—where it is modestly asserted, that "*very few authors are to be found among Sportsmen. On the subject of Field Sports but little has made its appearance.—These Publications are, for the most part, made up of common-place observations, and unblushingly copied from one book to another—and, Blaine has written a considerable quantity of nonsense on the subject of the Diseases of Dogs.*" Now this Writer, although certainly a Man of Sense, seems not aware how egregiously he has *Taplinized* himself. Taplin, as his Critic proved *seriatim et literatim*, compiled his *Stable Directory* entirely, *matter* and *spirit*, from the three eminent previous authors, whom he

had the impudence to stigmatize in his Title Page, which professed to guard the Public, against the dangerous errors of GIBSON, BRACHEN, and OSMER! *De quo nunc, fabula narratur?* The late writer alluded to, has fallen foul of all former Sporting Writers, with a single exception; oblivious surely at the moment, of the sources from whence he worked up his own Compilation, and that in all the facts, and most of the ideas contained in which, he had *predecessors*. Especially his remark on Blaine, is neither just, well-timed, nor liberal. With respect to a Man's private interest, every Man being necessarily compelled to an attention to it, that topic is out of question; and Blaine has certainly acted a meritorious part, in taking the DOG under his protection, an animal previously neglected *in toto* by scientific Veterinarians, whose attention has been, in every age, almost exclusively absorbed by the HORSE.

BREAKING & TRAINING THE DOG, FOR THE GUN.

CERTAIN of our devoted Sporting Writers counsel their Readers, to break and train their own Dogs. A pretty and amusing employ no doubt, for a Gentleman who has nothing to do, and whose head is conveniently vacant. Were it the paramount consideration, it has certainly great advantages to recommend it. A Dog will be most ready to *follow* his first Instructor, his obedience will be most voluntary, and from early and confirmed habit, he will become as it were of one mind and inclination with his Master. But Breaking of Dogs and Horses, Works of labour, and requiring exclusive attention, must, in general, be done by proper Deputies; and a well-natured, and well-trained Dog will soon become attached to a new Master, who uses him kindly, and be readily susceptible of any additional or peculiar instructions which shall be proposed to him, in a clear, decided, and temperate mode.

The SPANIEL.—It is scarcely necessary to advert to the consequence of being sure that a Dog is *thorough bred* of his Species, whence only, you can expect the full benefit of their peculiar instinct.

The SPANIEL requires the least training of any other Hunting Dog, as his business is of minor consequence. Being well bred, he will instinctively quest, find, and give notice of Game, and you have only to discipline and regulate those natural qualifications. On the mention of *well bred* Dogs, let me bestow two or three lines on the ancient superstitious folly of attempting to control Nature in her operations, even now credited and recommended by Game Keepers, and other learned Naturalists of that description. As an example, among other sage precepts—" to put the Dog to some other Bitch, just before he goes to her which you have chosen, in which case she will be predominant in copulation; but if you wish to breed after the Dog, give the Bitch nitre." In all probability you would be equally successful in your purpose by drawing a tooth, or paring the nails of either. This, although it hath not quite so respectable warranty, may very well pair off with worming.

Another material branch of the duty of a Shooting Dog is, to seek and bring in the dead or wounded Game, to which Mr. Dobson's objection appears to the present Writer singular and not well-grounded. His reason is, that all Dogs are so apt, in carrying a Bird, to break feather, sometimes mangling it so much, that it becomes an unsightly present. But consider the addition to the labours of the field, in a Sportsman or his servant having to hunt after distant falling shots, and the uncertainty of recovering them without ample commission

given to the Dog. Mr. Daniel's Dogs were remarkable for their well-trained and tender mouths in this particular, and dependent, in some measure, on the temper of the Dogs, they may, in general, with care, be made sufficiently tender. It is said, that only one Spaniel in a Pack should be taught this, where a number are hunted together, lest they contend for the Game when found, and tear it in the dispute; but having only one so taught, is also liable to obvious inconvenience, and I apprehend the preferable mode is, to teach them all, and to have them so strictly disciplined, as for one only to obey the immediate order to fetch Game. Pointers, I think, should have the same instruction to execute in the absence of Spaniels.

Dogs may be brought into the Field, at from eight or nine, to twelve months old, previously to which, and as the preliminary to their education, they should be taught to follow, and indulged in their propensities to hunt such Game as they can find, which will be all kinds of wild Birds; their earliest lesson being to come in when called. This grounded early upon their memory, will be most useful ever after. The next lesson is, to prevent their pursuing all improper objects, such as Sheep, Domestic Poultry, and the like. The sooner these lessons, with that of *fetching and carrying*, are taught to the Puppy, the better; nor is the task at all difficult; but the case is widely different, when the animal has arrived at maturity. True bred Dogs will gradually, from instinct in the first

place, in other words, from a natural predilection to the scent, and from training, in the next, learn to distinguish and to confine their attention entirely to their proper Game.

Spaniels are perhaps not so much in use as formerly, nor are they at all needed in an open, nor even in a close woodland country, where is plenty of Game; but otherwise, their use is unquestionable, granting them thoroughly disciplined, a thing somewhat rare; and that they can be kept within twenty or thirty yards; and be readily called in, to prevent their doing mischief.

To Break or Discipline the Pointer.—Success in this business depends on true breeding in the Dog, which assures a higher degree of docility and turn to obedience, on the grand mean of reward and punishment; on the skill, more yet on the temper of the Breaker. Temper and unwearied patience will tend to all useful ends; passion, if it do not entirely mar the desired end, will retard and render it incomplete, and increase a hundred fold the Breaker's labour. A Horse or Dog Breaker, both for his own and the Animal's sake, should commence with disciplining his own mind, into *an ability to form the unalterable resolution of never giving way for a moment to passion, be the conduct of the animal whatever it may.* Patience, singly, is worth all the wonderful *Secrets* of all the professed Breakers and Game Keepers in existence.

The young Pointer having been accustomed to *follow*, and to observe the word with a decent de-

gree of obedience, whilst at large, may be taken to a convenient and quiet place, in his CHECK COLLAR, to which should be attached some twenty yards of line, and there securely pegged down. The Breaker must be provided with his WHIP, and with some eatable in his bag, agreeable to the palate of his Pupil, the appetite of which at this time, should be moderately sharp. Behold the means of *Reward and Punishment*, the greater part of the former consisting in the caresses and kindness of the Master. Here the grand and essential lessons, on which all discipline and practice depend, are to be taught; these are —TAKE HEED! DOWN! to stop or crouch down—DOWN CHARGE! BACK! COME HERE! DEAD! HEY ON! GO SEEK! HOLD UP! applied to nosing the ground too close in the field, like the Spaniel or Hound. WARE! applied to every object against which the Dog is cautioned—as WARE HARE! WARE HORSE! WARE BIRD! with any other necessary phrases at discretion, which, in course, vary with Custom and District. These, however, must not be too multifarious, so as to distract the memory and attention of the animal, which will better learn his whole duties, in a short and comprehensive set of terms. They should at any rate be extremely plain and distinct, thence suitable to his scale of comprehension; and it is curious that, of late years, the word TOHO! has been used to stop a Pointer, of so near affinity in sound to SOHO! the exclamation uttered by ancient custom to start a Greyhound.

Most of the above lessons may be given with the Dog thus in hand, the remainder must be reserved for the Field, where he will afterwards appear sufficiently well drilled. Manual application is necessary in the first instance, to direct the Dog as to the positions or motions which he is required to assume. These being understood, the Breaker has only to stand, and give the word distinctly, and in a pleasing tone, for every separate act. Encouragement, and sometimes reward, should follow punctual performance, whilst the contrary should warn the pupil of the consequences of disobedience. The first punishment should be in shew, the mere crack of the whip; when its real use shall have become necessary, that should, at first, be extremely moderate. If the Dog become sulky and torpid from affright, which will often happen, or determinedly obstinate; instead of severe whipping and harsh treatment, so often employed, the best method to insure ultimate success, is to stay proceedings a while; the Dog, in the interim, being compelled to crouch down, the Breaker standing over him, whip in hand, looking stedfastly, with his eyes fixed upon those of his pupil, and shewing a determination to be obeyed, which the pupil will very well understand. This tactic may be put in force, to the length of ten or fifteen minutes, when the Dog should be approached with kindness, and a new attempt made to inforce obedience.

It will readily occur, that a Gun or Pistol, and

a head or two of dead Game, Partridge and Pheasant, are among the necessary implements to be used in training the Pointer Puppy. His auditory nerves must be inured to the report of the Gun, and the smell of Powder rendered grateful to his nose. The sweet and peculiar smell of Game rendered familiar to him, will direct and confirm his grand instinctive faculty. Many tender Dogs have *blinked*, or shyed and skulked, from bashfulness and mere apprehension, chiefly of the report of the Gun, when first brought into the Field, which have after proved the finest scented, and most staunch Pointers. The example also, of staunch old Dogs should be frequently exhibited. The young Dog must be taught to obey the Whistle as well as the Voice. By using him to dead Game, you may make him tender-mouthed to the Birds he afterwards picks up or carries.

These Drillings should be continued once a day, during two or three weeks, as may be found necessary, but never too long protracted, which only serves to fatigue and discourage the Puppy. In the interim, he should have daily pleasing excursions in the Field, all tending to the main end of instruction. Two or three in check, may be pegged down, one before the other, and taught to back each other, previously to their being taken together into the Field; but it is best to enter a Dog singly, at first. It will be seen to what degree the Dog points *naturally*, the criterion of his future staunchness and excellence. He must be

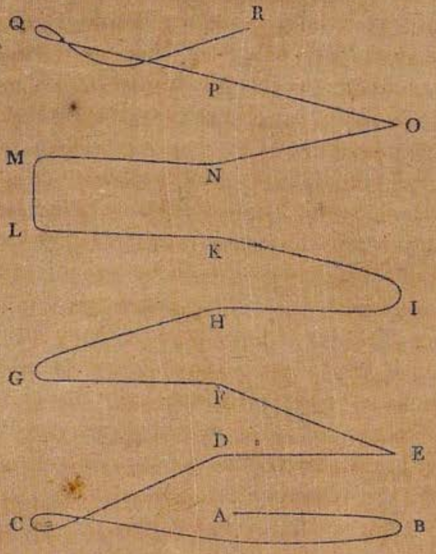
taught to quarter his ground truly, by the voice and the motion of the hand, that is, to range over it with regularity and effect—to come in, on the signal, and retire behind, to follow; and to crouch down at the word. The place of a Pointer, during the intervals of business, and in traversing the country, is immediately at the heel of his Master; he is never to be suffered for a moment a-head: whilst the Piece is loading, he crouches beside, or at heel.

Mr. Dobson, in his curious and truly practical Treatise, observes that, *fine Quartering*, by which is to be understood, laborious and exact, is the rarest accomplishment of a Pointer. It is unquestionably true, since for the plainest reasons, we find twenty fine scenting Dogs, for one really fine quarterer. That ardent and *hobbyhorsical* Writer has thence taken infinite pains, on a point of such paramount importance. He has borrowed, for the use of his Sporting Readers, a *Diagram* or Sketch of a piece of training ground, from a "Treatise on Field Diversions," written half a Century since, by a complete literary Sportsman, the late Rev. Mr. Simons, of Kelsal, near Saxmundham, Suffolk. Among our Church of England Clergy, have ever been found some of the ablest and most meritorious Sportsmen and Cultivators of the Earth—witness SIMONS, CLOSE, DANIEL, eminent names in a long and honourable list. On the above grand point, Mr. Dobson observes—

"The rarest accomplishment of a Dog, and not

less valuable than rare, is *fine quartering;* and I am, therefore, thus minute on the mechanical method of creating it, because there is no one thing which makes such a distinction on the scale of merit between one dog and another, as the sagacious expenditure of his powers in *hunting to find,* or an unmeaning, undirected ramble over a Country, for the chance of standing at Game, when he happens to stumble on it. To produce perfection is difficult, and must be the work of time; so much the more reason for sticking patiently to the principle. *You will observe the great object is, to procure a regular advance into the wind, at each end of his line of range, abreast of your line of march in the centre, and rather a-head of you, and then to cross direct to the call or whistle.* When in perfection, the whistle only, on all occasions, should be the signal of check; but at first, the voice also, with the more varying expression of its tones, within the compass of range above alluded to, must be called in to explain and to inforce its meaning."

This Diagram, or Chart of the Dog's Course, in quartering the Field, is as represented in the next page, being a Beat to Windward, with a breeze from the North. Its intent is sufficiently obvious, without the references, which are too long for transcription: it exhibits a Field thoroughly quartered or beaten, in the accurate style of a Sportsman, determined to leave no evidence behind of defective method in himself, or of the want of blood or discipline in his Dogs.



On the variety of Collars, Clogs, and other Implements in use, to check or punish the riotous Dog, it would be superfluous to treat, since they are so well known, and in general, at no rate, too sparingly used by those, to whom the care of these Animals is entrusted. I shall, however, just name the "marvellous device of the *Puzzle-Peg*," for the purpose of seconding Mr. Dobson's opinion. The use of this contrivance seems to me, to be worrying and fretting the Dog, to no other or better than such purpose. It is a scheme equally hopeful, as that of bending the Neck of a naturally cock-

throppled Horse; a favourite plan with some of our Riding School Gentlemen, who, after three or four Centuries of experiment, have not yet effected their purpose. The presumed use of the Puzzle is, to force up the Pointer's nose from the ground, to the degree of elevation common to that species. The sight of a brace of high-ranging Pointers, quartering their ground, and snuffing for the 'tainted Gale,' is beautiful and inspiring. Some, however, very good scented and staunch Dogs, hunt nearer to the ground, from Nature, as I conceive, rather than habit; and not improbably, in consequence of repeated crosses of the Hound. If any remedy can be expected, it may be, teaching the young Dog to hold up his Nose, by constantly, at every time of instruction, taking him by the ear and chucking him gently under the chin, accompanying the act with—HOLD UP, which will be at once impressed upon his understanding and his memory. The word, repeatedly given, may have some effect in the Field.

The following broad-marked description of the effects of alien and common bred crosses in Sporting Dogs, is given by Mr. Mayer in his Directory. "Ill-bred Dogs you may know by their being fox-muzzled, small eyes, bat-eared, fan-eared, short-necked, head set on like a pick-axe, broad withers, round shoulders, elbows out; small legs, feet out, called cat-footed; thick balls, round barrel, round croup; clumsy stern, set on low; sickle hammed, &c."

RATING Dogs for considerable delinquencies, should be performed with a loud Voice and stern Countenance, circumstances of alarm to all brute Animals. For enormous faults, it should not be attempted to correct the Dog, until securely staked down, when the punishment of the Whip should be given with a severity and continuance, preventive of the future necessity for such rigour. The security of the stake is indispensible, if resistance be expected from the known temper of the delinquent, since the circumstance has frequently occurred, of a Pointer flying at the throat and face of a man attempting to correct him. But of all things, for humanity, if not for common sense sake, that too common abomination ought to be scouted, of correcting an animal on uncertain grounds, from the presumption that if wrong in the present instance, it may prove otherwise beneficial! A sentiment, or its analogy, too prevalent in other and more important cases. The culprit ought to be well convinced at the moment, of the why and the wherefore he is corrected. Every Man who has seen much of the breaking of young Dogs and Colts, will have observed that, they will for a while take to their new avocations, with great docility and apparent steadiness; when on a sudden, a re-action ensues, they become weary of the labour and restraint, turn sullen, pretend to have forgotten all they had learned, and put in practice all kinds of rebellious tricks, in order to liberate themselves. The Dog will refuse to follow, or when thrown off

will idle and skulk, or hunt listlessly, with his head this way and that, as if watching an opportunity, and at last break away. He may or may not run entirely off. The remedy lies in a continued use of the Collar and Line, and in strict treatment, without too much severity, that in the end his labour may be rendered both familiar and pleasant. The Outlines of training the Hound Varieties also, will be presented, each in its proper place.

The usual TERMS OF NUMBER, as applied to Sporting Dogs, are as follow—of HOUNDS, BEAGLES, and HARRIERS, a *Couple*, a *Couple and half*, a *Pack*. Of SPANIELS, SETTERS, POINTERS, GREYHOUNDS, TERRIERS—a *Brace*, and a *Leash*, or three. Several Brace of Spaniels, a PACK. In some Counties it is customary to say, a *Couple* of Spaniels.

The same applied to GAME. A *Brace*, or a brace and half of PARTRIDGES or BIRDS, a *Covey* of Partridges. A *Brace* of PHEASANTS, a *Leash* of Pheasants, a *Ni* or *Nide* (covey) of Pheasants. A *Couple*, a couple and half of SNIPES—a *Wisp* of Snipes. A *Couple*, a couple and half of WOODCOCKS, a *Flight* of Woodcocks. A *Brace*, a brace and half of QUAIL, a *Bevy* of Quail. A *Brace*—a *Pack* of GROUSE, or BLACK GAME. A *Leash* of BLACK GAME. A *Flock* or *Gaggle* of WILD GEESE. A *Flock* or *Team* of WILD DUCK. A *Wing* of PLOVER. A *Trip* of DOTTEREL. A *Shoal* of COATS.

The general technical PHRASE and TERMINO-

LOGY of our remote Ancestors, was very extensive, as may be collected from the old Writers; of which the following Specimen will be sufficient, since a *q. s.* and fluency of this *knowing lingo*, will be readily acquired in the Kennel and the Field; and more particularly under the auspices of an aged Huntsman or Keeper. It must be acknowledged, that many of those phrases are sharp, *natty*, and seem to have been spontaneous, by their catching such hold on the attention of congenial minds, just as the affections are lighted up and engaged by the Sports themselves.

The STAG is said to be *harboured*—the BUCK, *lodged*. The STAG or BUCK, roused, are *emprimed*. Marks imprinted by the Feet of DEER of any kind, the *View*, or *Slot*. The Tail of DEER, the *Single*; Excrement, the *Fumet* or *Fumishings*. The FOXHOUND *challenges* (with the voice). The HARRIER *calls*; in trying back after a *fault*, he *traverses*. SPANIELS *quest*, *tongue*, *babble*, *whinnick*. SETTERS and POINTERS *open* or *vick*. Tired HOUNDS are *overhauled*. POINTERS, SPANIELS, and TERRIERS, *jaded* or *floored*. The Game, FOX or HARE, being beaten, and their death at hand, the Hounds hush and run mute, the point of time at which all those but the best mounted, are thrown out, for want of their guide, the CRY. The Fox is *kennelled* (earthed), or on the PAD; his BALL (foot-mark)—BRUSH; Ordure, the BILLOT. The WILD BOAR (at rest) *couched*; his Ordure, the *Cesses*; his Tail, the WREATH.

The OTTER, *vented* or *watched;* his Foot-print, the *Seal;* Ordure, the *Suage;* his Tail, the *Eel, Potter*, or *Pole*. The HARE on *Form* or formed, her *Pricks* (foot-prints); *Buttons*, (excrements); Tail, the SCUT. The BADGER, earthed; Ordure, the FIANTS; Tail, the *Stump, Chape*, or WHITE TIP. The SQUIRREL, at *Dray*; Tail, the *Brush;* Ordure, CROTEYS. The RABBIT *set;* Ordure, *Buttons* or *Croteys;* Tail, the SCUT. The MARTEN CAT, *tree-ed;* Ordure, the SPRAINTS; Tail, the *Brush.* POLE CATS and STOATS, Tail, the DRAG.

Sportsmen say—*Unkennel* the *Fox*. *Start* the HARE. *Bolt* the RABBIT. *Rouse up* the STAG and BUCK. *Uncouch* the WILD BOAR. *Unvent* the OTTER. *Dig* the BADGER. *Untree* the SQUIRREL and MARTEN CAT.

FEATHERED GAME.—The PARTRIDGE, at rest is said to be *jugged;* the print of the Feet, the *Rode;* Excrements, the Droppings. The PHEASANT, *perched* or *chuckered;* Excrements, *Droppings;* Tail, the *Train*, or *Pole*. GROUSE, *challenged;* Print, the *Rode;* Excrements, *Droppings*. RAILS, *craked;* Print, the *Rode*. QUAILS, *piped*; Excrements, the *Rode*. The WOODCOCK, fallen; Print, the *Creeps;* Excrements, the *Markings*. The SNIPE, at *Walk;* Traces, the CREEPS; Excrements, the *Mutings*. In beating for Game, PARTRIDGES, WOODCOCKS, QUAILS, and SNIPES, &c. are said to be *flushed*, when raised upon the Wing. GROUSE, PHEASANTS, and RAILS are SPRUNG.

Inclination in the BEASTS OF CHACE, male and

female, to the Sexual Congress, is thus described for each.

The Fox, barks. The VIXEN, or BITCH FOX, goes to *clicket*. The HARE, *taps* or *drums*. The FEMALE, clickets. The RABBIT, *taps*. The DOE, is *bucking*. The STAG and HART, *bellow*. FEMALES—the ROE and HIND, go to *tourn*. The BUCK, *groans* or *troats*. The DOE, goes to *rut*, or is *rutting*. The OTTER, *whines*. FEMALE OTTER, *goes to her kind*. The BOAR, *frims*. The SOW, *goes to brim*. The GOAT, *rattles*. The SHE GOAT, *goes to rut*. The DOG, *barks*. The BITCH, is *fond*, or in *heat*. The WOLF, *howls*. The SHE WOLF, *goes to match*, or is *making*. The BADGER, *yells*. The FEMALE, is *brimming*. The POLE CAT, STOAT, and FERRET, *chatter*. Their FEMALES, *go to Buck*.

THE FIELD.

Here the rude clamour of the Sportsman's joy,
The Gun fast-thundering, and the winded horn,
Would tempt the Muse to sing the rural Game:
How, in his mid-career, the Spaniel struck,
Stiff, by the tainted gale, with open nose,
Out-stretched, and finely sensible, draws full,
Fearful and cautious, on the latent prey;
As in the sun, the circling Covey bask
Their varied plumes, and watchful every way,
Through the rough stubble turn the secret eye.
Caught in the murky snare, in vain they beat
Their idle wings, entangled more and more:
Nor on the surges of the boundless air,
Though borne triumphant, are they safe; the Gun,
Glanc'd just, and sudden, from the Fowler's eye,
O'ertakes their sounding pinions; and again,
Immediate brings them from the towering wing,
Dead to the ground; or drives them wide dispers'd,
Wounded, and wheeling various, down the wind.

THOMSON.

DIFFERENT SPECIES OF FEATHERED GAME.

On entering the Field, it is impossible to avoid the painful recollection of a most distressing and mournful event, which has recently occurred in the family of that public spirited and good-natured Lord, the Earl of Albemarle. Two of the Noble Earl's Sons being out Shooting, in passing a fence, a cocked Piece was discharged, and proved fatal

to one of them! On reading this afflicting news, after the first sorrowful impression, my next sentiment was a fervent wish that, *my reiterated cautions* had appeared in time, to attract the attention and arouse the vigilance of these young and Honourable Gentlemen; and after this new and lamentable proof of the most urgent necessity of caution in the case, I make a still more forcible appeal to the rational feelings of all Sportsmen.

It is a sight most gallant and chearing, to see a British Shooting Party of Distinction enter the Field, in their neat and commodious Sporting Dresses, with their costly and improved Pieces, their proper train of Attendants, Keepers, Markers, high-bred and disciplined Dogs, and Relays of Dogs. The Royal and Noble Parties on the Continent, it must be acknowledged, afford a more grand and ostentatious show, a greater number of Attendants, both Men and Animals, and infinitely more parade; but the purpose and method of their Sport, are essentially different to ours, being, in general, merely to drive together in heaps, immense quantities of Game of all kinds, in order to knock them on the head, with the greater facility and dispatch; a system, which all its splendid accompaniments do not render equal, in real dignity and worth, to the more laborious, artificial, and fair Sport of this Country. But our business is rather to conduct the single Pupil safely, and with a fair prospect, into the Field, than to pourtray the glories of distinguished Sportsmen, which, to be conceived

and enjoyed, must be actually seen and participated in.

It may be necessary to reiterate a little, on the items of PREPARATION for a Shooting Excursion; because whatever we do, even to trifles, should be well done; and the mortification of missing some necessary article, or even some trifling convenience, may be found at the instant, to weigh heavier than would the labour of timely recollection. Should the distance to the Theatre of Action, consist of a number of miles, the DOG CART, of late years, and with so much reason, in constant use, is a very acceptable convenience; for this field labour, earnestly persisted in, is full enough for the strongest constitutioned Dog, without the addition of an hour or two's travel over the Road, to shake him and lower the tone of his spirit, and abate his eagerness for the Sport, before he reaches the Field. And with regard to Dogs in general, the present is a proper occasion to note an abuse in some persons, not all of them Younkers, who cannot make shift to travel without a Dog at their Horse's heels, generally some following favourite, or Hearth-rug Chum, without regular exercise, yet occasionally compelled to follow a Horse after the rate of eight or ten miles per hour, over a wet and heavy road, his tongue lolling from his mouth, and his tail loaded and draggling, with all the symptoms of distress. Under the silly expectation of every dog being able to travel with a Horse, are many favourites annually lost. Still more are lost by

being taken to a distance from home, into a crowd, on any public occasion; for, notwithstanding the natural sagacity and acute sense of smelling in the Dog, and the Accounts we have of individuals finding their Master or their Home, through such great distances of strange road, yet after all, every day experience shews that, nothing is more easily lost than a Dog.

The Ammunition, Flints, and Wadding, the latter in good store, will not be forgotten; nor Ammunition of another kind, both solid and fluid, when a long day is expected. Other items may not so readily occur, and yet in the course of the day, may have their turn of consequence; for instance, a Rod to which a Scraper may be affixed. These Rods are now made to take to pieces for the Pocket, and are useful to scrape a barrel which has been fired a considerable number of times, and consequently become leaded, the mere wiping of which, will not render it clean and free for another charge. A small piece of brimstone may be taken, wherewith to rub the face of the Hammer, should a miss happen; and the piece of Copper Wire, conveniently suspended, to prick the touch-hole, must not be forgotten.

We read much of Guns "missing fire," and more especially "hanging fire;" namely, the powder exploding at a minute, instead of an instant of time, and of the *cure* for those maladies. The proper term is *neglects!* If the Flints be good for nothing, and the Hammer in near relation to them,

or in a neglected state, or the Touch-hole plugged up, why, the Piece will miss fire: if the powder be bad or damp, and the Touch-hole or Barrel be moist and clammy, the Gun will hang fire, and there is an end on't. *Sat verbum.*

A miserable addition to the unhappy Accident already recorded, is, at this instant, presented by the Public Papers. The Rev. C. Colton, of Tiverton, has had his left Arm shattered by the bursting of his double-barrelled Gun, and lies in a state of extreme danger. The Commentators on this accident, attribute it particularly, to the Piece being double; with the remark that, "whilst Gentlemen, by the use of double Fowling Pieces, increase their chance of execution in the Field, only two-fold, they may at the same time increase their danger one hundred fold." It behoves me to make some observation upon this, having spoken rather lightly, of the presumed double danger of the double Piece. I can only add, that, nothing decisive can be drawn from the present case, since nothing has transpired, either with respect to the soundness of the Barrels, or the degree of care with which they were used. Granting the Barrels to be unobjectionable, and the caution with which they were managed, fairly in the same predicament, the use of the double Gun would stand finally condemned by the present accident.

To return to the Field. A single active and staunch Dog will shew a Man good Sport, and tire him too: however, a brace of Pointers or Setters,

with, or without a *Cry* of Spaniels, are a handsome sufficiency. To prevent confusion and interruption to the Sport, strange Dogs should not be thrown off together, but relieve each other in the course of the day. If strange Parties meet in the Field, they should either form a coalition, or agree upon separate routs for mutual convenience. A Junior Shooter, and more especially on his *debut*, as well as provide all the external things needful, as has been already pointed out, should also charge his memory with a store of golden Rules for his *safe*, decorous, and Sportsmanlike Conduct. These will readily suggest themselves, only requiring recollection and reflection. On the first point, alluding to the DANGERS of the Field, our admonitions have been grave and ample. A decorous and companiable conduct, or the *bienséance*, good breeding of the Field, consists in constraining those violent impulses, by which one Gentleman is driven to cross another, in order to obtain the first shot. Mutual forbearance will produce mutual accommodation in company. Every Sportsman should wait for his own Bird, rising on his own side, if they rise single. A Bird flushed between two Gunners, may be fairly shot at by both. A Covey rising, in course, every Shooter marks his Bird, and watches its fall. It is not Sportsmanlike to "flank the Covey," or to fire into the midst of them, with only a general aim. In case of a Stranger and rival Shooter, Major Hawker advises to *race* with him a long distance, and then suddenly

give him the double, without his seeing you. But suppose he should see you, and *up* to your finesse, be disposed to double your double. However, taking it for granted with the Major that, your Rival has not eye enough for such view, you are to make a quiet tour around, and reaching your starting place, you are to commence *de novo*, afresh, and work closely and steadily, the whole of the ground, which you and your Rival have been racing over. The fun and labour of all this, I strongly recommend to all those gallant Sportsmen, who can *afford*, and who chuse it. To Rivals of a different description, I would say, let each mind his own Sport, and take his fair chance. If in the interim, each cordially wish the other at the Devil, I have nothing to say to it.

The Partridge, or as they are styled by way of eminence, Birds, usually make the highest figure in our Catalogues of Game; and as a delicacy, notwithstanding their numbers, are held inferior to none. There are two or three Varieties of the Partridge, in this Country; the native grey, and the red-legged, which latter have been introduced from the Continent; beside some mixtures, some with uncommon colours, and occasionally they are thrown milk white. The red Variety is the largest, sometimes perching on trees, whilst the grey never light but upon the ground. This Bird is found in Corn, Turnip Fields, and Hedge Rows. She is, in the language of Mr. Daniel, "the Bird of Cultivation," and, in fact, equally capable with the

PARTRIDGES.

common Hen, of being domesticated, and the breed propagated to any extent. No fear then, of the want of Partridges, however numerous our Sportsmen. Ten, to fourteen ounces, is a good weight for a Bird, although several have been killed, weighing nearly twenty. The Bill of the young Bird is brown; of the old, white, inclining to blue; the Legs of the young, yellowish, turning afterwards to a darker hue, a blueish white. The marks of age appear in the Bill and Legs, and in the form of the last feather in the Wing, which after the first moult is pointed, but in the following Season, and ever afterwards, quite round.

For a Description of the form and beautiful plumage of this interesting, but modest, and very common Bird, and for the still more gorgeous beauties of the Pheasant, we rather refer to the Eye of the Reader, to the View of real life, and to its representation by the Draughtsman and Painter's Art. Partridges, like other birds, PAIR towards the end of February, or somewhat earlier in mild seasons, but should frost continue, or set in, they congregate again, or *pack*. In mild Winters, they begin to lay in six or seven weeks after pairing; but long and severe frosts have the consequence of rendering the young Birds very backward, through the following Season. It is a curious fact in natural History, that, one third more Cock, than Hen Partridges are hatched; and that the Cock partakes in great measure, of the pugnacious nature of the Game Cock, and no doubt might be

brought successfully upon the Pit, armed with the fatal steel; without the aid of which, however, they wage a most convenient internecine war, often fighting it out "*mordicus*, to death," in their quarrels over the too scanty number of females. The Hen Partridge must have, whilst breeding, a solitary walk and nest to herself. In Preserves, the too great number of Cocks, particularly the aged and *Old Bachelors*, should be reduced, if possible, by *Netting*. Many other circumstances tend to the reduction of the Stock of Birds, and are the cause of scarce Seasons; as continued and soaking Rains, or the opposite, long Summer Drought; also Vermin, which suck the Eggs, particularly exposed upon the ground, or destroy the young, however alert and capable of a running flight, with the egg-shell upon their backs. Their Enemies are Crows, Magpies, Jays, and all Birds of Prey; common Curs which will drive a field very nicely, for any thing they can find; and Snakes, with I believe every thing of the Viper kind, which reptiles should be regularly and incessantly destroyed by *handsome premiums*, not only on all Manors, where Game is an object, but in every Parish of the Country. May the late untimely Death of the Lord Marquis of Lansdowne's Steward, be a more effectual *warning*, than the multitudes of such instances have yet been. A very formidable Host of Enemies to this and the Pheasant race, remains to be denounced; to wit, those Farmers and small Proprietors, who are com-

pelled to feed Game for their *betters*, without the privilege of a Wing for their own share; also that part of the Labourers, who either are, or fancy themselves oppressed by their Superiors. Thus no wonder that, too often, not half the actual brood of Partridges is reared.

The Partridge is a most prolific Bird, and both Male and Female excessively attached to, and bold, sagacious, and indefatigable in defending their Offspring, of which many curious and interesting Examples are recorded. The Hen lays from fifteen, to upwards of thirty eggs, in any convenient hollow of the Earth, in a Clover or Corn Field. Some rare instances have occurred of their nesting in the top of the bole of a low Tree. The Hen sits twenty-one days, broods early in June, and the first Birds fly within that month. Partridges and Pheasants' Eggs, hatched under the common Hen, are said to suffer a too great heat, whence the feathers of the Bird about to come forth, are glued to the inner surface of the shell. The *whole* Egg will move without the shell being pecked. It is advised to dip the Egg, during five or six minutes, in water, as a remedy. I have some doubt whether the Bird would exist under a total submersion of such length, and should prefer sluicing the Egg, in hand, with blood-warm water, as long as necessary. A relaxing warmth might possibly penetrate the Shell, but certainly Water itself would not. However, the danger may perhaps be totally obviated, by setting the Partridge

or Pheasant's Eggs under the lightest Bantam Hen, as directed by my ancient Friend, *Bonington Mowbray*, in his truly practical Treatise on Domestic Poultry. Young may be produced between the Partridge and the smooth Bantam Fowl.

It has been already observed, that, in our pursuit of feathered Game, every other mean has been long since superseded by the fair and gentlemanly Sport of the Dog and Gun. *Netting*, *Jugging*, *Birdliming*, *Driving with the Stalking Horse*, or other *cunning* modes formerly in use, are no longer heard of, excepting among Poachers, who, however, are said to have improved upon some of them: Setting of Partridges, or driving them into Nets, by the aid of properly trained Setting Dogs, for any purposes of requisite arrangement or distribution of the Game upon a Manor, may be an eligible method. Shooting Birds in the Snow, is not to act like a true Sportsman. Few need be instructed to beat for Partridges in Stubbles, Turnips, and in those excellent breeding and feeding Grounds, Woodlands fresh broken up, where Ants' Eggs are in plenty, or in Clovers; as the Season advances, in the Fallows and remaining Turnips; on rough, furzy Heaths, Meadows having the shelter of old Grass and Mole casts; Underwoods, or spots abounding with Broom or Fern.

Seasoned and experienced Shooters, I believe, are now-a-days not very forward at hurrying into the Field early in the Morning, to be uselessly dabbling in the Dew; unless, indeed, from some

particular motive. Birds will very seldom lie well in the first of the Morning, nor can they be divided, but will fly off in Covies. To start at nine o'clock, after a good breakfast, will give the Sportsman a Day sufficiently long; and if early in the Season, and the Weather warm, he will feel no objection to refresh himself and Dogs, for an hour, after one o'clock, taking the afternoon, not seldom the best part of the Day for Birds lying well, to fill his Bag. As the season advances, and the Birds acquire strength of Wing, and become shy, the young Shooter should advance in skill and perseverance, make use of his best Piece, and perhaps decrease a little, the number of his Shot. It is seldom attended with success, although often pursued with great eagerness, to follow Coveys, which will not lie, but rise on a slight alarm, and fly straight forward to a considerable distance. Another approach may be made, and perhaps a chance and fruitless shot obtained, at forescore yards. The only hope of success subsists, instead of incurring useless fatigue, in patiently waiting the motion of the Coveys, which will generally return, in a circular flight to the place, or the vicinity of it, from whence they were at first flushed. Some are accustomed to drive the Fences and Coverts with their noisy Spaniels; at any rate, leave no part of your Ground untried, for when Coveys are separated, and the Birds have been driven about and frightened, they may lie in places not at all suspected, and sometimes so close, as almost to be trodden upon.

Upon a Manor plentifully stocked, a Shooter merely crosses the Lands in any direction, loading, firing, and *bagging*, if he be a tolerable Shot, with little of the labour of pursuit. He is never out of his road. It is, however, widely different in a comfortable scarcity of Game, when a Sportsman must make extensive Circles, availing himself of all his skill and knowledge of the Country, and staunchness of his Dogs. He will find *silence* and circumspection of the greatest use. Some Gentlemen keep the Spaniels detached, sending them forward with a Keeper, to hunt all the Turnips and other likely haunts.

In throwing off young Dogs, it may be necessary to give them the Wind, which they will afterwards instinctively keep, in quartering their Ground. As much as possible should be done with Shooting Dogs, by signal with the Hand; and though under good command, they may be allowed a pretty extensive range, all should be kept, as much as possible, within sight, and young ones ever within hearing. After all, on the conclusion of a laborious Day, when a fair quantity of Game has been bagged, through the exertion of the Sportsman's practical skill and unwearied diligence, he will, with more ardour and satisfaction, exult in the words of the Roman Poet, than if he had slaughtered double the quantity in those ignoble fields, where nothing more is necessary than to load and fire—

Discite Io Pæan! et Io bis discite Pæan!
Decidit in Casses, Præda petita meos.

The Partridge is so superabundantly prolific, and entirely graniverous, as to be a dangerous Competitor with Man, in a Country where the growth of Corn barely equals the demand of the Population.* Thus in the Island of *Nansio*, these Birds have been suffered to multiply to such a degree, as in some Seasons, to have nearly devoured the whole fruits of the Corn Harvest. The inhabitants, however, as a mean of reducing the Breed, collect yearly, as many of the Eggs as possible, by thousands, which they cook with various Sauces. *Tournefort* and others give evidence of the extreme docility and tameness of the Partridge of the Levant, where they are *whistled* to and fro, and folded by their Keepers, like Sheep. The following fact, as coming from the East, must not be doubted—" In the Country round *Trebizond*, a Man was seen leading above four thousand Partridges; he marched on the ground, whilst the Partridges followed him in the Air, until he reached a certain Camp, three days journey from *Trebizond*; when he slept, the Birds alighted to repose around him, and he could take as many of their number as he pleased." No doubt, however, need be entertained of the truth of the Anecdote related by Willoughby:—" A Sussex Man having made a Covey of Partridges so tame that, he drove them before him, upon a Wager, out of that County to London, though they were absolutely free, and had their Wings grown." The greatest multitudes of Partridges, and other Game, which I have ever

seen collected within a Circle of similar extent, were in the late Earl of Berkeley's Park, near Uxbridge, about thirty years since. There was actually some danger of riding over them. The noble Lord's legal attachment to his Game was well known. Certain Landlords of the present Day seem completely divested of this attachment, since within the past year, several Advertisements have appeared in Cumberland, Bucks and Kent, inviting Sportsmen to shoot on their Manors, and help to reduce the unprofitable quantity of Game. So much more, for the apprehension of a probable scarcity.

Lord Coleraine disputes the utility of *bushing* Stubbles, to prevent the netting of Birds by Poachers, and prefers small Stakes. However, Nets are not so easily disengaged, either by night or day, from plenty of good Thorn Bushes; and it is probable that, the custom of driving the Stubbles by night with Spaniels, might entirely drive away the Covies from a Manor.

The PHEASANT, Mr. Moubray tells us—" may well vie with the Peacock, if not for gaudiness, yet for the richness, variety, and sober Majesty of its colours, and for the beautiful symmetry of its form." The most esteemed *Varieties* at present known, on the same authority, are—the *Golden* or highest priced. The BOHEMIAN, most beautiful and scarce. The *Tartarian*, or Ring-Necked, bred in *China*. The *Gold and Silver*, also bred in China, very hardy, and good Breeders. The *White and Pied*. These Varieties have been imported at

Engraved by J. Davis from a Painting by S. Elmer.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Oct. 1. 1817.

PHEASANTS &c.

different Periods, and intermix readily with our established Breed, which has a less brilliancy of colouring, but is of the largest size, and in course, as indigenous, most hardy.

The Food of the Pheasant is similar to that of the Partridge, as far as respects Grain, Curds, and that seemingly essential nutriment, Ants' Eggs; but the Pheasant is equally carnivorous and verminivorous with the common Cock and Hen. For the best Method of rearing and managing these Fowls, I refer to Moubray. Lord Braybrook, at Audley End, Essex, and the Earl of Jersey, at Osterley Park, Middlesex, are among the present most eminent and considerable Breeders of Pheasants. There are also Breeders, who, in the way of Trade, rear several hundred in a Season, for the supply of breeding Stock, who have succeeded in a Substitute for Ants' Eggs.

The ancient Clergy of France made the most of their Trade, which has ever been applied to such important purposes, in the endeavour to monopolize the choicest dainties of Game; one of their celebrated Preachers, about the year 1216, represented in a Sermon, the Pheasants, Partridges, and Ortolans, in a body, addressing themselves to the Clergy, and intreating to be eaten by them, and them only!—"that, incorporated with their glorious Bodies, they might be raised to Heaven; and not go with the impious Devourers, to the Infernal Regions." I really admire the relish of their Reverences, as much as their policy, and can have

no doubt of the effect it must have had upon their humble and pious hearers. The HEN Pheasant is most juicy and fine flavoured, and I can recommend on experience, Mr. Daniel's method of roasting an old Cock, of itself dry, hard, and destitute of flavour. After due keeping, stuff the Bird, with the lean of the inside of a Sirloin of Beef, cut into thin Dice, and well seasoned; the Gravy issuing from the Beef, gradually diffuses itself through the flesh of the Game, and renders it mellow and juicy. We formerly, in Suffolk, as a change, made the addition of Oysters to the Gravy for Hare and Pheasant.

It is true to a certain degree that, Pheasants are shy and sullen, and cannot be tamed. I have in vain attempted to tame them in Walks, with common Hens. But it is liberty only which they crave; not generally, if well fed or in good Grounds, to rove to a great distance. On the contrary, if well fed and attended in Woods and Preserves, they will attend as regularly for their meals as domesticated Poultry, walking up to the Keeper, and pecking up Peas thrown down to them. Small Troughs, about four feet long, are most convenient for the feeding Coverts; and white Peas, Tares, and small Pigeon Beans the proper Grain, the Peas more especially. Buck Wheat, so often given, is neither so substantial and nourishing, nor so well relished by the Pheasants. Slips of Rutaboga may be also sown for them, if none in the Vicinity. The Cocks *crow* the first Week in

March, and in favourable Seasons, some of the Broods are very early. They will mix with the common Hen, very readily, in their wild state, on any convenient opportunity, but not always, or perhaps but seldom, in confinement. It is a popular error to suppose such products to be Hybrid or Mule, and the same with respect to the produce of the Canary and Goldfinch, which mixture will reproduce or breed as well as the entire kinds. How should it be otherwise, since all these are of the same Genus? The Pheasant is truly a *game* Bird, and the fine plumage of our Game Fowls, is a plain indication of Pheasant Crosses.

To change, as Hudibras has it—' their Sex like Hares,' is an alluson to an old story of the Hare, long since exploded; but the fact is thoroughly established that, Pheasant Hens sometimes actually assume the Attributes of the other Sex, as far as Plumage can confer them. Such Hens on moulting, produce a full Suit of Cock Feathers, and cannot well be distinguished from Cocks.—Neither the Naturalists nor Anatomists have attempted any solution of this Phenomenon. It appears an effect of the cessation of the procreative or generative faculty, but is not entirely confined to the aged Hen, young ones occasionally being subject to it. All are thenceforth barren, and should be taken from Preserves, as soon as distinguished, being extremely mischievous, not only sucking the Eggs, but tearing the Young to pieces like Hawks. It is generally necessary, likewise, to keep under

the number of Cocks. Some Device is wanted, to prevent Pheasants and Birds from nesting in Grasses that are to be mowed, where such numbers are annually destroyed.

Suffolk and Norfolk are famous for Pheasants, and the best Pheasant Shooting the present Writer ever enjoyed, was in the former County. To address myself once more to the *Alarmists* on the score of a Game Famine, in case of an extension of the Trigger Franchise; little fear need be entertained in respect to the Pheasant, when its vast productiveness is considered, and when the fact among so many and similar may be adduced, that, on the Suffolk Manors of Mr. Thelluson, they could afford to kill two thousand brace of Cocks annually, and yet keep up their full breeding stock.—Furze seeds should be sown in Hedges as among the best Covert for Pheasants.

Pheasants, like Partridges, lie upon Corn and Stubbles, as long as any food is to be found, and in the neighbouring Coverts, or Hedge Rows. They are there seen at feeding times, Morning and Evening. The Pheasant, a great lover of Salt, seems to have considerable attachment to the Sea Shore, and to Marsh Land where is cover for them, and there could be no better situation for Preserves, supposing plenty of Wood to be within a reasonable distance of the Shore. Manors so situated might produce immense quantities of this Species of Game, as it is said the Salt they there obtain, greatly increases their powers of propagation, and

attaches them to the Neighbourhood; indeed, they will multiply to the satisfaction of the utmost desire, where well fed, in spite of the usual disturbance of the Gun, being very seldom inclinable to take distant flights. They harbour much in *Alder Cars*, as they are called in Suffolk, or parcels of Alder, Willow, or other Aquatics, growing together, in springy and marshy Soils; and on such, it is good to plant the Aquatics, as Covert for Pheasants, as Furze and Broom upon dry Wastes. Their food in Winter, consists of Hawthorn and other wild Berries, Insects and Reptiles; and they will make a meal upon a dead Carcase, with the Appetite of a Carrion Crow. The middle branches of the Oak are their Winter roosting places. At the instant they are about to perch, at Sunset, the Males give three or four *Cockettings*, which the Hens, on flying up, answer in a single shrill whistling note.

Let us avail ourselves of the Poet's sound advice, in Pheasant Shooting, that our Shooting Days may be long in the Land, with a plentiful Stock, well preserved.

> His gaudy Plumage when the Male displays
> In bright luxuriance to the Solar Rays,
> Arrest with hasty shot his whirring speed,
> And see unblam'd the shining victim bleed:
> But when the Hen to thy discerning view
> Her sober pinion spreads of duskier hue,
> Th' attendant Keeper's prudent warning hear,
> And spare the Offspring of the future year;

Else shall the fine which custom laid of old,
Avenge her slaughter with thy forfeit *Gold*. PYE.

Nevertheless, the too well known general dilemma must have place here, the scarcer the Pheasants, the more likely are the Hens to be shot.

The purest bred and strongest formed Spaniels, are the Dogs for *Wood Shooting* of Pheasants, such as are not afraid of the thickest and most thorny Covers; and in extensive Woods, the Team of Spaniels cannot be too numerous and full of Tongue. It is an object to a Shooter of Distinction, to possess a highly disciplined Pack of such, but too much neglected. When a Man goes out with his Pointers and Bells, I think he should not forget the Cap for his own Head. In Pheasant Shooting across the open Country, Spaniels are little needed, and indeed it is a kind of fashion to scout the trouble of them. The *whirring* of the Pheasant, which brings a sort of anxious tremulation over the mind of the unpractised Gunner, is particularly cheering and pleasant to the ear of the Sportsman; not however from such an idea as the approach of any critical trial of his skill, as a Marksman, since comparatively speaking, the spreading Pheasant, is as broad a Mark as a flying Haystack. In *Coverts*, it is no doubt a different thing, and a Pheasant when sprung will fly, perhaps instinctively, in a straight direction before a Tree, which obstructs the Shooter's view and aim, when he should recollect instantly, to wheel to the right or left. Phea-

Engraved by J. Scott from a Painting by Reinagle. Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Mar. 1, 1817.

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sants which have lived ver a season or two, as well as red-legged Partridges, will run, un il they may be literally said to be coursed or hu ted by the Dogs, and as if they had an instinctive apprehension of the Gun, should they spring. For Pheasant Shooting, the Sportsman must not be too late in the Morning, since while the leaves remain, the Game generally lies too high to be readily come at. Colonel Hawker says rationally, that, for one who goes alone into thick Underwood, to get Shots, a brace or two of well broke Spaniels, are best; but yet he recommends a single high-couraged old Pointer, taught *to break his point*, and dash upon the Pheasants before they can run out of Shot; or a Newfoundland Dog, for the same purpose. A Plan which might succeed well enough, but which seems to present no superiority over the use of Spaniels. After so much has been said of—'fenny Bogs and thorny Brakes,' the Tyro need not be told that, if ambitious of becoming a crack Pheasant Shooter, he must not have a too tender regard, either for his Clothes or his Skin. The duration of life in the Pheasant, has been erroneously shortened to seven or eight years, but in reality, it has been known to extend to nearly twenty.

GROUSE.—The Pursuit of the Grouse, or Moor Game, may, full as well as that of the Woodcock, be styled the *Fox Hunting of Shooting*, for indeed it is, next to Shore Shooting, the most adventurous and laborious of Diversions with the Gun, carrying the

hardy Sportsman many long mile o'er Mountain, *Brae d Burne*, and along the *muiry* Wilderness, where he rough and tangled *Heather* conceals stones, cavities and obstructions of all kinds, to catch the wearied feet and overthrow the Fowler. Yet, as swift says,

> The Squire in scorn will fly the House
> For better Game, and look for *Grouse*.

The great risk of falling upon the Moors, should warn Sportsmen on the point of carrying their Guns cocked, more especially in company. The toil of this Department in Shooting, certainly sanctions beyond any other, the use of the Shooting Horse, to which however there is this objection, that in case of the Accident, you had better fall by yourself, than in company with your Horse, and from the increased altitude of his Back. At any rate, he should not only be one of the safest, but accustomed to the Country, and to descend Hills. Much speculation has been on foot, at different Periods, on the best means of reducing that natural propension to obesity, which subsists in some Constitutions, and which begins to be troublesome about the middle Age. To counteract this oppressive liberality in Nature, I know of no better method than for the Patient to put himself into training, as a *wasting Jockey*, and when sufficiently reduced in weight, to keep himself by exercise to that standard, at the same time living well and freely. The Cold

Bath, Summer and Winter, is one powerful aid; another, annual early Grouse Shooting.

The Varieties of this Game are, the COCK OF THE WOOD or CAPERCALZE; the BLACK GROUSE or BLACK COCK, commonly called BLACK GAME; the RED GAME or MOOR COCK; and the WHITE GROUSE, or PTARMIGAN. I know not that the RUFFED GROUSE of the New Continent has been yet introduced in this Country. It is a beautiful Bird, the Cock nearly of the size of a Pheasant, and spreads its tail in the wooing Season, like the Turkey Cock.

The noble COCK OF THE WOOD, weighing from ten to fifteen or sixteen pounds, I am apprehensive has been suffered, like the Bustard, to become nearly extinct upon this our Island; and I say of the Wood Grouse, as Moubray says of the Bustard, if any are yet to be found, it is surely worth while to make the attempt of domesticating some individuals, with a view of preserving and increasing the Breed. The attempt is, I believe, making with the Bustard. Grouse are easily tamed when young, and domesticated, and some measures of attention to the Breed in general, have long since become necessary, on account of the growing facility of their conveyance to the Metropolis, where infinitely greater numbers are consumed than formerly. The Black Grouse may be compared to the Pheasant for its size, and perching on Trees. It weighs three or four pounds. The Red Grouse and Ptarmigan are rather to be classed with the

Partridge. The Red are most plentiful, as the vast numbers killed by ambitious Sportsmen, are a proof. Red and White Grouse are nearly of the same size, somewhat larger than the Partridge. All the Grouse, more or less brown fleshed, are a fine Game Viand, and of high flavour, as seems indicated by their early putrefaction. They cannot be drawn too soon, and should be stuffed with *Heather*. If wetted, or torn by the Dog, they should be wiped dry before they are bagged, and again perfectly dried at a distance from the fire, previously to packing for Carriage. The best mode of package is either by partition Boxes, with Hops or Heather, one Bird or at most two, in a partition, or in sealed Bullocks' Bladders. Some pack them undrawn.

——Their Eyes so bright of late,
Surmounted by a Brow of scarlet Fringe,
How dull and heavy now! Yet still their Plumes
Retain their Colour, red and white immix'd,
With transverse Bars, and spots of sable Hue.
Most common these—yet Grouse of other Kind
The Fowler often finds, of larger Growth
And glossy Jet, Black Game or Heath Cock term'd.
Nor are the Red on every heathy Moor
Or rocky Mountain found; full many a Waste,
Wash'd by the Southern or the Western Main,
Has ne'er receiv'd them, though abundant else
In store of footed or of feathered Game.

FOWLING.

The chief Quarters for Grouse Shooting are the Scotch and Welch Mountains and Moors. Red Grouse are also in good plenty in the Moorlands of

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Derbyshire, Lancashire, Cumberland, and Yorkshire; Staffordshire being their boundary Southward. They formerly came much farther Southward, and were found in Dorset, Hants, and Surrey, but the culture of Waste Lands has in all probability, extirpated them. A hardy and deep-flewed SETTER is far preferable, on almost every account, to the Pointer, for Grouse Shooting: Mr. Daniel's old BEAU, is an excellent model. Half a day, particularly if the Weather be sultry, is sufficient labour for the stoutest Dog, at which period he should be relieved. A brace, or even two or three brace of Dogs, however, may find full employment, being in relay, and relieved as above. The Shooter beside, using strong Exercise under a burning Sun, ought to have a reverend care of his own health, which consists first, in the lightest possible Clothing, over Flannel Shirt and Drawers, with good defence for the Feet and Legs. With respect to *internals*, Ham and Biscuit, or our Lord Coleraine's *Sportsman's Beef*, together with the election between London Particular Madeira, and genuine *Cogniac*, form the Staff in Grousing. In this Field, no Man must dare to be a Water Drinker, whatever he may be at home; but must dilute his Water, with a fair portion of the above choice and undoubted Specifics.

You will kill Grouse only in fine Weather, at least to repay your labour, and the time is from eight o'clock in the Morning, until as late in the Afternoon, as you feel inclined after a long Day.

As the season becomes old, from ten or eleven until two, is the only time in which Grouse will lie. Large Shot, and the largest Piece you can carry, are then necessary; and as the Birds run hundreds of yards forward, if two or more Shooters are in company, it is necessary for one to make an extensive Circle, to head and stop them, the other remaining behind to drive them. In general, the Aim is to kill the old Cock, which runs cackling away, in order to divert you from the Brood. The Cock killed, the Pack will lie, until you may almost knock them on the head with your Gun.—Colonel Hawker, one of the soundest Authorities, directs—" To find Muir Game at the Beginning of the Season, take as many Pointers or Setters as you can to hunt steadily together. To kill them when *found and marked down*, take up all but one staunch Dog."

COCK and SNIPE SHOOTING have always been regular and customary Branches of the Sporting Business of the Season. They *relieve*, after the heat for Partridge and Pheasant Shooting is somewhat abated. The WOODCOCK with its long Bill and Head enveloped in Feathers, is too often seen to need Description. It is a Bird of Passage, and is found nearly in all Climates, but the mild and moist are most congenial with its nature. Its Food, Worms and Insects. Its ordinary Weight, between Ten Ounces and a Pound. They migrate hither from the frozen Regions of the North, on the setting in of the Frost, arriving earlier or later in Au-

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tumn, as the Wind may be favourable or otherwise. The REDWINGS usually precede the Woodcocks and the Royston Crow, in their arrival, and a North East Wind continuing several Days, at Old Michaelmas, will bring vast Flights of the two latter upon our Coasts. Supplies arrive periodically, until December. Early in the Spring, or rather some little time before its Commencement, the Woodcocks, preceded again by the Redwings, assemble on the Coasts, in order to take the advantage of a fair Wind to those Northern Regions, where, being indigenous, they pass the breeding Season. When compelled to wait for a Wind, they lie upon the Coasts in great Multitudes, affording the resident Sportsman the best opportunity throughout the Season; precarious, however, since a change of the Wind may, in the course of a single Night, so entirely clear the Country, as scarcely to leave a Brace behind. Disease or Accident may occasion some few to remain, and spend the Summer in this Country, when those breed which find the opportunity of pairing. They *pipe* a little in the Spring, at pairing time; at every other time are silent; and are fattest and best for the Table, from December to the middle of February, after which they decline in Flesh and Flavour. The Woodcock, on its Arrival in Autumn, is poor and often *scurfy*, but having recovered from the fatigue of its Voyage, the flesh is white, short, and delicate, with scarcely any blood; after a month or two's keep in this Country, it becomes somewhat

browner, more firm, and savoury. The Neighbourhood of Torrington, in Devonshire, is famous for Woodcocks and Snipes, being found there in such Abundance that, One Person, a few years since, has been known to supply the Metropolis with them to the Value of nearly Two Thousand Pounds in One Season. Great part, it may be supposed, are taken by *Nets* and *Springes*, as in Cumberland and Westmoreland, where these Birds were formerly so cheap, as sixteen to twenty pence, a Couple. *Bridge Springes* are set in the Rides, where the *Markings and Mutings* are discovered, also *Glade or Flight Nets*, are hoisted up by Pullies upon Trees. The Kendal and Exeter Coaches have a chief Concern in the London Supply, the latter sometimes carrying up thirty Dozen of Woodcocks per Week, Price, at particular Seasons, as high as sixteen Shillings the Couple. The Woodcock may be bred up tame, if caught young, being fed on Worms, and artificial ones made of strings of lean Beef.

Woodcocks are perhaps always to be found in the greatest Abundance, within a few miles of the Sea Coasts, yet they traverse the whole Country, and their haunts are where there are Springs and Coverts, and the upper staple of the Soil is productive of Worms. Their *Creeps* in the early part of the Season, are in Hedge Rows and Clumps of Trees, upon soft Heather, among the Cover, on the margin of Ponds, and in Springy Bottoms; afterwards in young Wood, and in the Skirts of Woods. Were they

undisturbed, they would probably continue during the whole Season, in or near any favourite Spot. Good questing Spaniels are the only Dogs for Cock Shooting, or Setters; and where the Birds are not in plenty, fine Noses are particularly required. The Cock is not easily flushed, concealing itself under the Stubs or any Cover, or running, and is sometimes excessively sluggish. When marked, it will be often found to have run considerably wide, a circumstance which must be allowed for. Woodcocks rise heavily, with a flapping of the Wings, inspiriting to the Shooter, and in their flight, skim leisurely along the Ground, presenting a fair Mark, which can scarcely be missed, and if missed, they seldom fly far. It is however otherwise, when they are flushed among tall Trees, rising then with great Velocity, and a more noisy flapping of the Wings, until they surmount the height of the Trees, and are enabled to take their usual horizontal flight. Here lies the difficulty of Cock Shooting, much use and quickness being requisite to catch an Aim through the Branches of the Trees, either in the Ascent of the Bird, or afterwards. Cocks inhabit the Woods during the greater part of the Winter Season, but are invisible in severe and continued Frosts, excepting the few which find Cover near Springs that never freeze. Markers are very useful in Cock Shooting, who may also beat the Covers with Poles; and when the Cocks have been flushed by these, or the Dogs,

they will land either in some Ditch, Fence, or Bank, at no great distance.

SNIPE and WOODCOCK Shooting are congenial Branches of Sport. The Snipe is universal, the Bird nearly of all Countries and Climates. They are distinguished as the *Common*, the *Jack Snipe*, and the *Great Snipe*. The two former weigh about three or four Ounces, the latter half a Pound, which is not often seen in this Country. They are generally full of fat, of a fine Woodcock flavour, inclining to the Game bitter, very grateful to the Stomach, and are like the Cock, cooked with the Entrails. Snipe Shooting without any Dog, is common, or with a steady, seasoned Pointer. These Birds, in the Winter Season, frequent low and moist Grounds, sheltering in rushy Bottoms; in the Summer they resort to hilly and moorland Districts. They begin to *pipe* in early Spring, nest on the ground, lay four to half a dozen Eggs, and breed in considerable Numbers in this Country, although, perhaps, the greater part migrate like the Woodcock. It is curious to observe the manœuvres of the Cock Snipe, when disturbed and flushed in Breeding Time, and to listen to his *bleating* noise, as he rapidly ascends to a vast height, when after poising himself awhile, on his Wings, in the Air, he falls with equal rapidity, whistling, and making a drumming noise, either with his Voice, or by the flapping of his Wings.

Snipe Shooting is the *Crux Jaculatorum*, or trial

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of the Marksman's Skill. I generally prefer Colonel Hawker's short and pithy Instructions, and I am sure I cannot mend them here, although I have seen something of Snipe Shooting. If in their Walks, you flush them nearly under your Feet, remain perfectly unconcerned, until they have done *twisting* in their flight; then fire; or take them whilst describing the semicircle, which sometimes gives an opportunity; but if you present in haste, you cannot, from a common panic, bring the Gun up to a proper aim. If they rise at a moderate distance, *down with them before they begin their Evolutions.* When they cross, fire well forward.—Snipes lie best in windy Weather, and being flushed, become a good mark by hanging against the Wind. Endeavour to get to Windward of them, and catch a cross Shot, by which you will not be so embarrassed with their zigzag flight. Look for Snipes in bottoms not frozen. First go silently down Wind, to beat up the wilder ones; then let go an old Pointer up Wind, to find those which have laid so close, as to allow few to pass.

The Quail, or Dwarf Partridge, is found in most Countries of Europe and Africa; in some, extremely multitudinous, but in this Country, is little known. It is a Bird of Passage and of the fighting Species, and by the ancient Romans was *pitted* like the Game Cock.

The Bustard is divided into a number of Varieties, but is in this Country, distinguished only as the Great and Little. It is known all over the

Old Continent, and was formerly in considerable numbers in Britain, where few are seen at present, and perhaps it is uncertain whether those few are indigenous, or have migrated hither from other countries. The great Bustard is the largest of our Fowl, and is of the Gallinaceous *Genus*, partaking in a considerable degree, of the nature and figure of the Ostrich. Cocks have been formerly caught, weighing upwards of thirty Pounds; the Hen seldom reaches twenty. The Back is barred black and of a bright rust colour; the Belly is white. The Tail consists of twenty Feathers. The Legs are long and naked above the knees. The Bustard inhabits Downs and extensive Plains, and perhaps more of them are to be seen upon Salisbury Plain, than in any other part of England. In Hungary, Bustards are said to be so common, as to be sometimes seen in flocks of four or five hundred. They feed on corn and vegetables, and partly, like other Gallinaceous Fowls, on Worms and Reptiles; and like the Ostrich, swallow stones and metallic substances. They are said to have been seen in this Country in Troops of fifty, or upwards, in large Turnip Fields, but surely that cannot be understood as referring to any late period. The shooting at these Birds, so difficult of approach, brings to my recollection the same respecting the Heron. Perhaps the most probable method of success would be, in case of the rare occurrence of a discovery of the haunt of a Flock of Bustards, to watch them in concealment, with *heavy Metal* and No. 1.

They run like the Ostrich; and are, according to reports, so slow to take flight, as to be coursed with greyhounds; an account scarcely to be reconciled with the extreme shyness attributed to them, unless the Coursing them is to be understood of the wounded or winged Birds, which I rather suspect. Hawks have been flown at the Bustard in former Times. I must join Mr. Moubray in the opinion that, these Fowls, producing such quantities of food, equal also in delicacy to the flesh of the Turkey, should not be suffered to become extinct in this Country. Breeding Stock in plenty, may be obtained in Hungary.

We thus have run through the chief Objects of the Shooter's pursuit, among Land Birds; of the minor objects a mere mention or enumeration of the chief of them must suffice, to be followed by a few Observations on WILD FOWL SHOOTING.

The CORN CRAKE, LAND or WATER RAIL, or DAKER HEN. Hatched about the time of the Partridge; plentiful in Ireland, Anglesea, and Scotland. A few in most parts of England. Birds of Passage. A great Dainty and excessive fat. LARKS and STARLINGS. FEN BIRDS, or those inhabiting watery and reedy Tracts of Land, particularly LINCOLN, RUTLAND, and CAMBRIDGESHIRE. They afford Summer Shooting. For this Branch, in the Fens, two Guns are necessary, a long and a short Barrel and a pair of Water Proof Boots.—DOTTEREL. These Birds are migratory, and found on Fens, Heaths, and More-

lands, sometimes by the sea side. They weigh three or four ounces, and are of delicate flesh. The Wheat-ear arrives in this Country in March, and quits it in September; they are of the size of the Sparrow, frequent Heaths and Downs, chiefly in Sussex, and are a high Delicacy. Thirteen Dozen of them have been killed at one discharge with Dust Shot. The Ruff and Reeve, Male and Female; the Males great Fighters, not only in Couples, but in Armies encountering each other in Battle Array; and it may be supposed these are Love Contentions. The Ruff weighs nearly half, the Reeve a quarter of a Pound; they are Birds of Passage, and are caught with Nets, in order to be fattened on Bread and Milk, Hemp-seed, or boiled Wheat with Sugar. When fat, they are declared by Epicures to be the most delicious of Viands. The Knot is taken in the same manner, and also the Godwit, somewhat larger than the Woodcock.—Plovers, the *Golden*, the *Grey*, and the *Peevit* or *Lapwing*. The Flesh of these, but I should conceive not of the latter, is said to be sweet and tender; they are dressed with their *Trail*, like the Woodcock. The Bittern is a large Bird, its flesh somewhat similar, but judged by the *Cognoscenti* far superior to that of the Hare. It was formerly in great repute in England, subsequently losing its reputation, which of late years it seems to have regained, and is at this time a fashionable Dish, in price at the London Poulterers from ten to fifteen Shillings. It is a Bird of great

Courage, and being wounded, will in turn wound the Shooter with its Bill or Claws, unless laid hold on with Caution.

The RED SHANK or POOL SNIPE. The WATER HEN weighs from twelve to fifteen Ounces, at all times good Meat; from September to December, delicious. It frequents Reeds and Moory Places.

WOOD PIGEONS or RING DOVES were multitudinous in this Country, in Times previous to the great increase of Population, and the demand for cultivated Land. At present, We have no where more than a moderate plenty: to shoot these Birds they must be watched in their haunts, among which, Turnip Fields are to be reckoned. They are the largest sized Pigeons, excepting the Spanish and other Runts, of the tame Species, and are fine flavoured, excepting when too bitter, or when the flavour is lowered by Turnip feeding. I am unaware of any proof of their being Birds of Passage, and as a Pigeon Keeper, am inclined to think the Attempts to domesticate them have failed through Accident.

The TAME PIGEON, naturally various, has been manufactured into a vast Number of artificial Varieties. Nonsense enough in conscience, has been written on the subject of these useful and pleasing Birds. The Speculations of the Learned on their possible immense Increase, are at any rate, amusing; much more so than the sage Direction— "to clean your Dove Cote *once* a Year." They, who will not clean it once a Week, deserve all

the losses which negligence never fails to create. It has always proved to me most advantageous, to feed Pigeons at home, which they will repay by double the Quantity of young which they would produce, if compelled to wander in search of Food. Thus treated, they would do little Mischief to the Corn, which they now destroy to such an extent. *Runts* and *Dragons* are among the most useful Pigeons for the Table, the former white fleshed, the latter more brown and savoury. The difference in quality, is great indeed, between Pigeons regularly well fed, and those which are driven to shift for themselves. This the Poulterers well know, allowing more than double the price for the former.

PIGEON SHOOTING, which prevails most near London, and in the bordering Counties, has been justly stygmatized as cruel by Writers of feeling; but Mr. Lascelles surely makes a laughable hand of it, in pronouncing the Pigeon a *holy* Bird! Mr. Daniel has well pourtrayed its Cruelty, yet there is one counteracting Consideration; a vast number of refuse Pigeons are for this purpose, bought up in London, and taken out of an exquisite state of Misery, from which Death, could they be sure to meet it, would be the best refuge. Few people, even those accustomed to reflect on animal Suffering, are aware of those of the wretched Town Pigeon, barrassed about from its first quitting the Nest, through the rough hands of scores of unfeeling Blackguards, its feathers pulled, its Wings

braced, starved and forced to fly against its inclination, matched, then unmatched and its dearest ties broken; sold, resold, exposed in Cages, immured in Cellars, Coal Holes, and loaded with every misery, which can be inflicted by the wanton Caprice, Neglect, and beastly Ignorance of the two legged Race, its Tyrants. We have great Performances in Pigeon Shooting, although far inferior to those of the famous Toomer and his Brother in Hampshire; it may be nevertheless true that, our first rate Pigeon Shooters might be, by no means, equal Shots in the Field, which requires another kind of Practice and Experience.

ROOK SHOOTING, I think, full as cruel as the foregoing, since Rooks are in part domesticated and under our protection; at least it is cruel to shoot them near their Nests, and their Home, to which they are so much attached. Their young may be taken as we take young Pigeons, and they make nearly an equal Pie, and are good both broiledand roasted. Rooks beside, pay their Keep well by the quantity of Insects they devour, and may always be driven from those Crops which they injure. There is in a late Sporting Magazine, a very good Plan for establishing a Colony of Rooks. DUCKS and GEESE are the most pleasant and inoffensive of Fowls, and Geese of the kindest Nature, and even susceptible of Attachments; and I digress a few lines, for the purpose of branding those Cruelties which are exercised upon Geese, in tearing off their Feathers, four or

five times a Year, and yet such is the miserable system of Nature, that we can find the most plausible Excuses for this and most other cruelties. Mr. Daniel relates an Anecdote of a Gander, which led about an aged blind Woman, holding her Skirt in its Bill, and taking the utmost care of her.

DUCK HUNTING is one of those wanton Species of Barbarity, for which even a Senatorial Advocate would be puzzled to find an Apology. It is to drag the innocent and harmless tame Duck from the Sanctuary of our Protection, to suffer Alarms and Horrors worse than Death—to be worried and torn to Death piecemeal—whilst the *Sport* is enhanced by the continuance of the Animal's Frights and Tortures and Suffering. Blush, Human Nature!

WILD FOWL SHOOTING is enjoyed in the Winter Season, upon the Sea Coasts, on the Marshes, Rivers and Pieces of Water, where the Fowl resort for Food or harbour, during severe Frosts. The chief Objects of the Fowler are, DUCK and MALLARD, DUNBIRDS, EASTERLING, WIDGEON and TEAL. There are beside, WILD GEESE, COOTS, CURLEWS and other Fowl, considered of little or no worth for Food. The first List are all excellent Meat, and fit for the best Tables. Wild Geese are fishy and full of Oil. Coots are held in no estimation, although they really deserve a considerable share, as I can testify on my own Experience, having eaten them roasted

and stuffed like Ducks, to which I have sometimes found or fancied the Coot equal. The immense quantities of these Birds, has I suppose taken all Value from them. Gunners will not waste a charge upon them, and when they do shoot, will not be at the pains to take them up. Reader, I would not deliberately tell thee an untruth; but if mine Eyes did not deceive me, I have actually beheld upon the Manningtree River in Essex, on the Stutton or Suffolk side, a Shoal of Coots reaching two miles in length, as thick as they could well swim, and half a mile over. Being disturbed, in their flight upwards, they absolutely darkened the Sun, then shining brilliantly, upon a Frost-bound Surface of Earth and Water. We know that our Ancestors had a taste different from ours, at present; hence we need not wonder at their boasts of the Curlew, which ought to be worth ten shillings now, according to the Money Value put upon it, at the time the well known Distich was penned. I have never heard of its being eaten within my memory. I had one cooked, but the stench whilst roasting, was sufficient.

The severities of Wild Fowl Shooting by Night, during the utmost rigour of the Winter Season, together with the attendant Dangers, are such as some, but very few Sportsmen choose to undergo. The Day Time is the Season of *Diversion*, but that can only be had, to any great degree, in severe Frosts, when the Fowl of every description, are

in flight throughout the whole Day, and the Shooter, traversing the Marshes or taking to his Boat, can scarcely fail of a number of successful Shots. I must again request Credit of my Readers, who have never visited the Salt Marshes of Essex and Suffolk, or Hants and Dorset, in the Shooting Season. The Quantities of Wild Fowl to be seen, are almost miraculous. I have been out on particular fine and severe Days, from Morning until the Twilight, when look whichever way I might, the Air and Water seemed to be peopled with Flocks and Strings of all Descriptions of Fowl, from the Goose and Heron to the Oxbird. They were all shy enough, it is true, and Shots were obtained by concealment and careful watching. In general, *Flight time*, or soon after Twilight commences, is the season for this Sport, which if the Night be fine, is occasionally agreeable enough, until eleven o'Clock, as preparatory to a good hot Supper and a jovial party at home. Diversion ceases and the Hardships and fatigues of the Laborious, commence at that Period; which I seriously recommend to them, who have the Grace to do Penance for their Sins. The various Noises made in a still Night, by the different Species of Fowl, as they fly over, are extremely curious and interesting to Ears of sensibility; and a Walk at Flight time is well worth while, with a contemplative View, and that of gratifying the Sense of hearing only.

The Necessity of warm and Sufficient Clothing

on these Expeditions, it is superfluous to mention; yet more especially for the Night service, it may be proper to point out the necessity of double Woollen Stockings, reaching up to the Middle, over which, Water proof Boots are *indispensibles;* and a Fur or Skin Cap must be worn, as the Fowl are always alarmed at the sight of a Hat. The Gun required for this Sport, must be of as great Length and weight of Metal, as the Shooter can manage, with the size of Shot already directed.

Of the Perils and Dangers and Hardships of those, who brave the horrors of a Winter's Night, in Wild Fowl Shooting for a Livelihood, many affecting Anecdotes might be detailed, but they would not be quite in place here, as having nothing in common with *Diversion*, in the opinion of most Sportsmen. An indispensible addition however, must be made to the Shooter's Skill, who goes in Pursuit of Wild Fowl, only a few hours after Flight Time, for Amusement, which is, the faculty of Shooting by *Ear;* for should there be no Moon, he will in course not be able to see his Game, but must direct his aim to the *noise* their Wings make, or other practical Signals. "He will observe," says Colonel Hawker, "the *Whistle*, which announces the Approach of the Wigeon—the Similitude to a *Storm* of the rapid flying *Dunbirds*—the shrill sounding Pinions of the Wild Ducks—and the mournful Notes of the *Plover*, with the Roar of a bursting Surge and discordant Screams of *Sea Fowl*." Use will gradually insure this Accomplishment,

but this use also, may bring something full as lasting; namely, Colds and Rheumatism, against which, it may be fair to warn the voluntary adventurer. The roughest and hardiest Spaniel is the proper Dog for the Shore, the only business of which is, to bring the Fowl shot, which he easily comprehends. Many of these Dogs are destroyed for want of dry Lodging on return from their Labour. An Attendant should carry a stake forked at top, provincially called a *Bumper*, to be driven into the Earth as a rest from which to fire the Duck Gun, when very long and heavy. But those heavy Guns rather belong to the Business, than the Diversion of Shore Shooting, excepting when the Shooter is afloat; and it is far more pleasant on Shore, to be content with a Barrel not exceeding four Feet, and of considersble Substance and Bore, which a tolerably strong Arm may conveniently manage, and which with large shot, Bristol Patent, will do execution at the Distance of one Hundred, to one Hundred and Twenty Yards. A Man who shoots for Pleasure, does not want to bring down a whole String or Gaggle of a Score or two of Geese, at a Shot. A commencing Thaw, or Frost with Snow and Sleet, are most favourable to Wild Fowl Shooting, and in the latter, the new Locks which admit no wet, would be of great use, if they really answer, though a good shift is made by hand holes in the Jacket or Coat Skirts, which are oil cased. The Shooter will take his Stand under the Marsh Wall, or in some proper Concealment, shifting it

DUCK SHOOTING.

as necessary, or will take to his *Flat* or *Punt*, and pass along the Creeks which divide the Marshes, and by silence and caution, endeavour to get within reach of the Fowl in their feeding Places, or lie in wait for them, as they fly over. In great plenty of Game, several Dogs may be employed, and several Pieces should be ready loaded, exclusive of the great Gun, which may be fixed upon a Stauncheon in the Punt; with especial care however, that the Boat be not over loaded and upset. It is necessary to Shoot well before Fowl in their flight, generally at the guess of two or three feet or upwards, according to circumstances. Masked Batteries have been contrived by Fowlers, as sinking Tubs in the Earth, or digging Recesses in the Sides of Hills, but the most feasible plan of that kind is, for a Proprietor to run up small Sheds, in or near the most frequented Places, from which he may Shoot his Game undiscovered. In these a Swivel might be fixed.

Young Ducks, and I believe Wild Fowl generally, are distinguished from the old, by their softer and redder Feet, and by plucking a Feather from the Wing; if young, it will be soft and bloody; if old, the quill will be dry and hard. Mallards have been taken, when the Season for feeding has been favourable, of nearly the weight of four pounds. Decoy Ponds, generally made near the Sea, or on the Marshes of some great River, are, if well attended, on an average of years, very advantageous; and those most particularly which are not at too

great a distance from the Metropolis. The Pond should be well sheltered by Wood, and thickly skirted with Reeds. In this Pond, the Fowl rest all day. At Flight time they rise, making a Noise with their Wings, which in calm Weather, is heard several Miles. Decoy Ducks are kept, well fed, which always return home after Flight, bringing wild ones with them. In a new Undertaking of this kind, Success entirely depends on the lucky choice of the Situation, and the liking which the Wild Fowl may chance to take to it. The Seasons, as settled by Act of Parliament, for catching Fowl in these Decoys, is from the latter End of October until February. The Manner of working the Decoys, that is of catching the Fowl, too long for Insertion, is well worth the Observation of the curious who may chance to have the opportunity. A Decoy has *netted* Eight or Nine Hundred Pounds in a single, very successful Season.

MISCELLANEA.

To render Boots Water-proof, from Colonel Hawker.—Drying Oil one pint; Yellow Wax two ounces; Turpentine two ounces; Burgundy Pitch one ounce. Melt over a slow Fire, and add a few drams of Essential Oil of Lavender or Thyme. Brush the Boots with this, in the Sun, or at a distance from the Fire. The Application to be repeated, as often as the Boots become dry, until they be fully saturated.

The following from Mr. Daniel, on the Authority of the late Dr. Harward, one of the best Wild Fowl Shooters in the Kingdom.—For *new* Boots, half a pound of Bees Wax, one quarter pound of Resin, and the like Quantity of Mutton Suet or Tallow: Boil them together, and anoint the Boots well with the preparation lukewarm. Should the Boots have been used, Beef Suet to be substituted instead of Mutton.

To preserve Gun Barrels from Rust occasioned by Salt Water.—Three ounces of Black Lead, half a pound of Hog's Lard, one quarter ounce of Camphor, boiled upon a slow fire. The Barrels to be rubbed with this, which, after three days is to be wiped off with a Linen Cloth. Twice in a Winter will be sufficient.

The practice of cleaning Gun Locks, by *boiling* them, adverted to page 83, being mentioned to a Maker, he strongly ridiculed it, as the readiest method to loosen and spoil the best lock.

Pointers are, I believe, generally kept in Kennels, on which Mr. Lascelles's Directions are judicious. Dog Kennels should be made of the driest wood, and roomy enough for a Dog to lie down, in any Position, and also to stand in, perfectly upright. Each Kennel should have a Door, with an opening above, to admit the air, when the Door is shut. Kennels are too often defective in these needful particulars, whence chiefly the present notice of them. Let them be placed on rolers, from which results a twofold advantage—that of raising them above the ground, and being able to move, and place them with the Front to leeward, in cold Winds. Kennels should be placed in a large open Space, walled round, with a Shed, each having a separate feeding Trough. In the middle of the paved Yard, should be a Pump with a leathern Pipe to distribute Water, in any Quantity or Direction. Cast Iron Vessels for Water and Food, to be kept clean. The Boiling House in an inner Court, communicating by a Door, and the Meat to be brought from thence and portioned out in proper Quantities to all at once, the Doors of each Kennel being closed in the interim. The Dogs all to feed at the same time, under a strict Discipline, that they interfere not, one with another.

SHOOTING in September, the present Year 1817. At the Earl of Fife's, in Mar Forest, notwithstanding the incessant Rain, the List of Slaughter during one Week, beside *red Deer*, *Roes* and *Ptarmigan*, amounted to 821 brace of Grouse.

The Marquis of Huntley's Party shot upwards of 1100 brace of Grouse. And notwithstanding the wet Weather, the Marquis of Tavistock shot in three Days, 40, 45 and 51 brace. The accounts do not state whether Forsyth's fulminating Lock, or any new Contrivance was resorted to, which resists the water.

A wounded Partridge is instantly killed by a trifling Blow on the Head, against the butt end of the Gun: not so the Woodcock; prick him immediately behind the Pinion Joint under the Wing, and he will instantly expire. When Grouse are wild, a perforated Bullet fired among them, will sometimes cause them to drop and lie very close. The Bullet to be perforated with two holes, intersecting each other in the centre. The whizzing of the Ball in the Air, frightens the Birds. Care is necessary in giving sufficient Elevation to the Ball, to prevent Danger.—*From Mr. Needham.*

Mr. Spencer, Schoolmaster of Durham, has at this time, a Brood of well grown young Partridges following a Hen. They are quite domesticated, and may frequently be seen in the Public Street in front of Mr. Spencer's House. On the 11th of August last, Mr. Roots, Gamekeeper to the Earl of Chichester, killed at one Shot, in Stanmer Park,

Sussex, three Sparrow Hawks on the Wing, a Shot unprecedented as it regards the Hawk. John Fuller, Esq. of Rosehill, Sussex, an excellent Shot, in beating for Partridges, sprung nine *Land Rails*, five of which were killed by Mr. Fuller, two by Mr. P. Willard, and one by the Game Keeper. In 1813, near Dorrington, in Wilts, a Shooter beating down a River, shot with a single Barrel and bagged four wild Ducks, which rose in a parallel line to his Gun.

RIFLE SHOOTING. This nice and curious Branch of Gunnery, certainly merits Attention. We learn from the Sporting Magazine that, on October 12th, THE ACHROTOMOTARIAN SOCIETY, mustered in great Style, and on the whole made an eminent Display of scientific knowledge of this powerful Weapon. The Rifles of these Gentlemen, who had spared no expense, were in high perfection, and all excepting that of Captain Forman, from the Manufacrory of Riviere, in Oxford-Street, London, an Artist of high reputation, and himself a capital Rifle Shot. The Gold Medal was won by Mr. Adams, after a very animated Contest. Rifles, now made in England, in the highest perfection, were little known among us, in the first American War, when People were amused on this side of the Water, by the Story of an American Woodsman, who had actually shot an Eagle with his Rifle, *when it was out of Sight*—a thing by no means impossible.

FLINTS. The hard white Flint Stone, it seems,

maintained but a short lived reputation; it requires too great force in the Cock, and is extremely injurious to the Hammer. In adverting to the Substance and Safety of GUN BARRELS, and the Merit of our improved British Manufacture, I omitted an Observation in which the National Character and commercial Interests, are deeply involved. In former Times, our Manufacturers were stigmatized for the infamy of purposely making cheap and unsound Barrels for Exportation to Africa and North America, where the poor ignorant Purchasers frequently lost their Limbs by the bursting of such unsound Pieces. Surely these base and wicked Frauds no longer exist, in a country of such high religious Pretensions as ours.

I shall conclude this Department of our Subject, with a truly practical Quotation, from one of the most popular and extensively circulated Monthly Publications, of the Time—THE SPORTING MAGAZINE of my old, esteemed, and respectable Friend Mr. Wheble; a Work, which during the last twenty years, has been highly instrumental in improving the Morality of British Sports: and with a singular Epitaph on a favourite Dog, by Lord Byron, the Prince of modern Poets, and the unrivalled Master of the Passions. We may yet hope that, the Calm produced by Increase of Years and philosophic Reflection, may abate a considerable Portion of that *Misanthrophy*, by which the glowing mind of the Noble Poet is too deeply tinctured.—

"On the Nature of Game, it may be necessary

to make a Remark, common to all *feræ Naturæ*, as if they were conscious of their being the more immediate Objects of Man's Pursuit—and that is their Watchfulness, the unremitted Vigilance which they observe in every Act and in every Motion; so that in order to cope with their Wariness, the Sportsman himself is required to be all Eyes and Ears also. Obvious then is it, that Silence and Circumspection constitute the Key Stone to the attainment of Sport. Even in Cover with Spaniels well trained, whistling is quite sufficient. More Noise only takes the Dogs from their Work, driving the Game in any Direction, but that from whence the said Noise proceeds. It is from this Circumstance that many an old, and if I may so say, experienced Hare, with one Ear forward, and the other in her Poll, pops out of Cover before the Sportsmen have entered it. Hence the Pheasant is found at the opposite Side of the Cover, though the Scent was strong as possible at the Entrance of the same. Hence too the firm, yet vain Point, at the Place, whence the Covey has just escaped; and hence also the common Occurrence, that the quiet Companion who saunters round, has more Shots than the Principal who hunts the Dogs in the Cover: Field Amusements being considered as a relaxation from more important Concerns, a vulgar Notion has gone forth, as to their requiring no Attention. That without this, the Man shall have his Air, and his Exercise, I am ready to grant; but if on this Principle he

meets with Success, it must be casual only. In this, as in all other Cases, general Success can only be expected from unremitted Attention, Vigilance, and Perseverance; and if Expectation be the first Feature of the Morning, it is the relaxation from the continued and intense Bent of the Faculties to the "*hoc age*," after the Success which crowns the Evening of the Sporting day; *when Society itself is rendered still more sociable; when the hit and the miss, so often told, yet have a Relish; when according to the Words of an old Shot—"We find Angels in Women, Venison in Mutton, and Nectar in Wine;" when, in short, viewing the poorer Resources of other Nations, we exult in our better Fare, and bless our Stars that We live in such a Country.*"

INSCRIPTION ON THE

Monument of a Newfoundland Dog. *(see p. 133.)*

BY LORD BYRON.

When some proud Son of Man returns to Earth,
Unknown to Glory but upheld by birth,
The sculptur'd Art exhausts the Pomps of Woe,
And storied Urns record who rests below;
When all is done, upon the Tomb is seen,
Not what he was, but what he should have been:
But the poor Dog, in life the firmest Friend,
The first to welcome, foremost to defend,
Whose honest Heart is still his Master's own,
Who labours, fights, lives, breathes, for him alone,
Unhonour'd falls, unnoticed all his Worth,
Denied in heaven the Soul he held on Earth:

While Man, vain Insect! hopes to be forgiven,
And claims himself a sole exclusive Heaven!
Oh, Man! thou feeble Tenant of an Hour,
Debas'd by Slavery, or corrupt by Power,
Who knows thee well, must quit thee with Disgust,
Degraded Mass of animated Dust!
Thy Love is Lust, thy Friendship all a Cheat,
Thy Smiles Hypocrisy, thy Words Deceit!
By Nature vile, ennobled but by Name,
Each kindred Brute might bid thee blush for Shame.
Ye! who perchance behold this simple Urn,
Pass on—it honours none you wish to mourn:
To mark a Friend's Remains these Stones arise,
I never knew but one, and here he lies.

NEWSTEAD ABBEY, OCT. 30, 1808.

THE GAME LAWS.

SHOOTING.

THE Qualifications for pursuing or killing Game, or in more accurate Language, the Exemptions from the Pains and Penalties imposed by the Statute Law, arise from Estate and Certificate, technically called the Qualification.

QUALIFICATION.—Charles II. Stat. 22 and 23, Chap 25. —No person not having a Freehold or Copyhold (*See Caldecot's Cases*, p. 230,) Estate, in his own or his Wife's Right, of the clear yearly value of 100*l.* or Leasehold Property for Life, or at least for Ninety-Nine Years, of the clear yearly Value of 150*l.* can pursue or kill Game, or have in his Possession any Gun, Dog, or other Instrument for the taking or killing of Game, on pain of forfeiting by the Statute, 5 Ann, Chap. 24, Five Pounds for every Offence: nor can a Person, even having the above Qualification as required by the Statute, pursue or kill Game with a Certificate, on pain of an additional Penalty of 20*l.* Ann, Stat. 9, Chap. 25.

But of the Son and Heir Apparent of an Esquire, or other Person of higher Degree, and the Lords, Owners, and Keepers of Manors, Forests, Parks, Chases, and Warrens, as also of Game-Keepers duly appointed, no Qualification by Estate is by virtue of Charles II. Stat. 22 and 23, Chap. 25, required. And the Statute, 54 Geo. III. Chap. 141, relieves all Persons aiding and assisting qualified Persons in the taking or killing of Game, provided that the Act of aiding and assisting be done in the Company and Presence, and for the Use of such qualified Persons.

CERTIFICATE.—Geo. III. Stat. 52, Chap. 93.—A qualified Person must pay a Duty of 3*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* and a Game-Keeper 1*l.* 5*s.* annually, for a Certificate.

Geo. III. Stat. 48, Chap. 55.—Persons having a Certificate may demand of others using a Dog, Gun, &c. for the pursuit or taking of Game, to read or take a copy of their Certificate. Refusal to comply, or producing a false or fictitious Certificate, or giving a false Name, or Place of Residence, or Place of Assessment, incur a Penalty of 20*l.*

Season for the Pursuit or Taking of Game.

Heath Fowl, commonly called *Black Game.*—Geo. III. Stat. 13, Chap. 55. The Season for taking this Species of Game begins on the 20th of August and ends December 10th. But in the New Forest in Hampshire, and in the Counties of Somerset and Devon, Heath Fowl may be taken between December 10th and September 1st.

Grouse, commonly called *Red Game.*—Geo. III. Stat. 13, Chap. 55. The Season for taking Red Game commences 12th August, and ends December 10th.

Bustards.—Geo. III. Stat. 13, Chap. 55.—The Bustard Season commences March 1st, and ends September 1st.

The Possession of either of these Species of Game at any other time than above described, incurs a forfeiture of from 10*l.* to 20*l.* for each Offence.

Partridges and Pheasants.—Geo. II. Stat. 2, and Geo. III. Stat. 19. The Partridge Season commences September 1st, and ends February 1st. The Pheasant begins October 1st, and ends February 1st. The Possession of either of these Species of Game, (except such as are kept in Mews for Breeding,) at any other Time, incurs a Penalty of 5*l.* for every Bird.

Wild Fowl.—Ann, Stat. 9, and Geo. II. Stat. 10.—Wild Ducks, Teal, Wigeon, and other Water-Fowl, are not to be taken but between June 1st and October 1st, on forfeiture of 5*l.* for each Fowl, and of the Nets, &c.

Hares.—Qualified Persons may take Hares at any Time of the Year, provided it be in the Day Time. The usual

Season, however, for hunting Hares, is from Michaelmas to Candlemas.

The Time at which Game may be pursued or taken.

Geo. III. Stat. 3, Chap. 80.—Game must not be pursued or taken between the Hours of Seven at Night and Six in the Morning, from October 12th to February 12th; or between Nine at Night and Four in the Morning, from February 12th to October 12th; or on a Sunday or Christmas Day, on Forfeiture of from 10*l.* to 20*l.* for the first Offence; from 20*l.* to 30*l.* for the second; and for every subsequent Offence, 50*l.*

Unlawful Destruction of Game.

Deer.—Geo. III. Stat. 16, Chap. 30, and Geo. III. Stat. 42, Chap. 107. To hunt, or take in any Snare, or kill, wound, or shoot at, or to attempt so to hurt, &c. any Deer in any Forest, Chase, or Inclosed Ground, or aid and assist therein, without the Consent and Authority of the Owner, subjects to Transportation for Seven Years. And by Geo. I. Stat. 9, Chap. 22, called the *Black Act*, to hunt, wound, kill, or steal Deer in any Forest, Park, or inclosed Ground, armed offensively, and with the Face blacked, or being otherwise disguised, or forcibly rescuing any Person guilty of such Offence, is Felony, without Benefit of Clergy.

Hares.—James I. Stat. 1, Chap. 27. To trace Hares in the Snow, or to take them in Snares, or Gins, incurs a Penalty of 20*l.* or Three Months imprisonment. And by Charles II. Stat. 22 and 23, Chap. 25, any Person found using or setting any Snare or other Engine for the Purpose of taking Hares, forfeits 10*s.* or is committable to the House of Correction for One Month.

Rabbits.—James I. Stat. 3, Chap. 13. To enter in the

Night Time any inclosed Grounds used for the keeping of Rabbits, and to drive out, take, or kill any Rabbit, subjects to Imprisonment for Three Months, or forfeiture of treble Damages and Costs.—By Charles II. Stat. 22 and 23, Chap. 25, to enter at any time any Warren, or Ground used for the keeping of Rabbits, whether inclosed or not, and to take, chase, or kill any Rabbit, incurs a Forfeiture of treble Damages, or Three Months Imprisonment. But by the same Statute, to kill in the Night Time upon the Borders of Warrens, or the Grounds used for the breeding or keeping of Rabbits, incurs the Forfeiture of only 10*s.* or One Month's Imprisonment.—By Geo. III. Stat. 5, Chap. 14, to enter in the Night Time any Warren or Rabbit Ground, and take or kill any Rabbit, or aid or assist therein, subjects to Transportation for Seven Years, or punishment by whipping, fine, or imprisonment. And by Geo. I. Stat. 9, Chap. 22, to enter any Warren or Rabbit Ground, armed and disguised, and robbing the same, or, though not armed and disguised, to rescue, or procure any Person to join in rescuing, any Person in Custody for such offence, is Felony, without Benefit of Clergy.

Pigeons.—James I. Stat. 1, Chap. 27, and Geo. III. Stat. 2, Chap. 29. To shoot at, with intent to kill, or by any means to kill, or to take with an intent to destroy, any House Dove, or Pigeon, incurs a Forfeiture of 20*s.* for every Pigeon, or Imprisonment from One to Three Months.

Partridges and Pheasants.—James I. Stat. 1, Chap. 27, and James I, Stat. 7, Chap. 18. To shoot at, kill, or destroy, with any kinds of Hawks, or Dogs, any Pheasant or Partridge, incurs a Forfeiture of 20*s.* for every Bird, or Three Months Imprisonment. If in the Night Time, with Net or Snares, for every Pheasant, 20*s.* and for every Partridge, 10*s.* or One Month's Imprisonment.

Heath Fowl, Grouse, and Moor Game.—To shoot at, kill, or destroy, with a Gun or Bow, any Grouse, Heathcock, or Moor Game, incurs a Forfeiture of 20*s.* for each Bird, or Imprisonment for Three Months.

WILD FOWL.—James I. Stat. 1, Chap. 27. To shoot at, kill, or destroy with a Gun or Bow, any Mallard, Duck, Teal, or Wiggeon, incurs a like Forfeiture or Imprisonment.

HERONS.—The same Statute inflicts a like Penalty or Punishment for shooting at, killing, or destroying any Heron; and the Statute 19 Henry VIII. Chap. 2, prohibits any one from taking of young Herons out of their Nests, except on his own Grounds, on Forfeiture of 10*s*. for each Heron.

SWANS.—To take any Swan lawfully marked, although at large, or even marked, if within the Manor or private Rivers of the Owner, is Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

HAWKS.—Henry VII. Stat. 2, Chap. 17. To disturb Hawks in their Coverts, or destroy them, forfeiture 10*l*.; and by Edw. III. Stat. 37, Chap. 19, to steal them, Felony, but within Clergy.

EGGS OF GAME.—Wilfully to destroy the Eggs of Pheasants or Partridges, incurs a Penalty of 20*s*. for each Egg, or One Month's Imprisonment, James I. Stat. 1, Chap. 27. Of Wild Fowl, for every Egg of a Crane or Bustard, 20*d*.; of a Bittern, Heron, or Shoveland, 3*d*.; of a Mallard, Teal, or other Wild Fowl, 1*d*.; if from the 1st March to June 30th; Henry VIII. Stat. 25, Chap. 11. Of Swans, whether in or out of the Nest, 20*s*. for every Egg, or Three Months Imprisonment, James I. Stat. 1, Chap. 27. Of any Falcon, Goss-Hawk, &c. Fine and Imprisonment at the Option of the Magistrate, Henry VII. Stat. 11, Chap. 17. And by the last Statute, no Person must take the Eggs of any Swan found on his Ground or that of another, on Pain of Imprisonment for a Year and a Day, and Fine at the King's Pleasure.

Geo. III. Stat. 57, Chap. 90. To enter any Forest, Chase, Park, or other open or inclosed Ground, between Six in the Evening and Seven in the Morning from October 1st to February 1st; between Seven in the Evening and Five in the Morning from February 1st to April 1st; and between Nine in the Evening and Four in the Morning for the Remainder

of the Year, armed, and having any Net or other Instrument, with the Intent to take or kill Game, or wilfully to destroy the Game, or to aid and assist therein, subjects to Transportation for Seven Years. Rangers, Keepers, &c. may seize and apprehend all Offenders, and take from them their Arms, Snares, Dogs, &c. as also the Game they have unlawfully taken.—Geo. I. Stat. 9, Chap. 22; Charles II. Stat. 22 and 23, Chap. 25; and Geo. III. Stat. 57, Chap. 90: and by Geo. I. Stat. 9, Chap. 22, Constables and Peace Officers, if authorised to that Effect by the Warrant of a Magistrate, may enter Houses of suspected Persons not qualified, to search for Venison; as they may also by Will. and Mary, Stat. 4 and 5, Chap. 23, for Hares, Partridges, Pheasants, or other Game, except Rabbits, and seize all Dogs, Nets, or other Engines employed in the Destruction of Game, and destroy the same. Wounding or beating Keepers of Forests, subjects to Transportation for Seven Years.

Buying and Selling of Game.

James I. Stat. 1, Chap. 27. To sell, or buy to sell again, any Deer, incurs a Penalty of 40*s.* for every Deer.—Ann, Stat. 5, Chap. 14. Any Higler, Chapman, Carrier, Innkeeper, Victualler, or Alehouse Keeper, who shall have in his Custody any Hare, Pheasant, Partridge, Moor Game, Heath Game, or Grouse, or who shall buy, sell, or offer to sell the same, to forfeit 5*l.* for every Hare, &c. or be imprisoned for Three Months. But this Act does not extend to Carriers having in their Possession Game belonging to Persons qualified to kill Game.

And by Geo. II. Stat. 28, Chap. 12, if any Person, whether qualified or not qualified to kill Game, sells, exposes or offers to sale any Hare, Pheasant, Partridge, Moor or Heath Game, or Grouse, he shall for every Offence be subject to the Penalties of the Statute 5 Ann, Chap. 14. But by Virtue of James I. Stat. 1, Chap. 27, the Sale or Expo-

sing to Sale of Partridges and Pheasants reared in Houses, or brought from Abroad, does not subject to any Penalty.

Game found in the House or Possession of a Poulterer, Salesman, Fishmonger, Cook, or Pastry-Cook, deemed an exposing to Sale within the Meaning of the Act. Geo. II. Stat. 28, Chap. 12.

And by Ann, Stat. 9, Chap. 25, all unqualified Persons having Game in their Possession are liable to the Penalties of the Statute 4 and 5 William and Mary, Chap. 25, unless it be ticketed by a qualified Person, or give a good Account how they came by the same, or produce the Party of whom they bought it, or procure some creditable Person to depose upon Oath the Sale thereof.

Ann, Stat. 5, Chap. 14. Persons having destroyed, bought, or sold any Game, and who shall within Three Months make discovery of any Higler, Chapman, Carrier, Innkeeper, Alehousekeeper, or Victualler, having bought, sold, or offered to buy or sell, or having had in his Possession any Game, shall, on Conviction of the Offender, be discharged from the Pains and Penalties for having killed or sold Game. Gamekeepers selling or exposing to Sale any Game, without the Consent and Knowledge of their Lord, subject to Three Months Imprisonment in the House of Correction.—Ann, Stat. 9, Chap. 25. And Keepers or other Officers of Forests, &c. killing Deer, without the Owner's Consent, to forfeit 50*l*. for each Deer, or be imprisoned for Three Years, and set on the Pillory. Geo. I. Stat. 5, Chap. 15.

GAMEKEEPERS.—Only One Gamekeeper can be appointed within one Manor. By Charles II. Stat. 22 and 23, Chap. 25, they are not only empowered to seize Game, but all Guns, Nets, Dogs, &c. intended for its Destruction; and by Geo. III. Stat. 57, Chap. 90, to seize and apprehend all Persons found in any Forest, Park, or other open or inclosed Ground, armed, and with Nets, Snares, &c. for the Destruction of Game.

[*The Law respecting the Commission of Trespass in the Pursuit of Game, will be found under the Title* HUNTING.]

FALCONRY, OR HAWKING.

A brief Notice will suffice of this antiquated Sport, which, it is not within the range of probability, will ever be revived in Britain, although several Noblemen and Gentlemen of the present Day, in particular Colonel Thornton, who seems disposed to leave nothing untried in the Sporting Line, unless we may except Racing, still keep Hawks from motives of Curiosity, or fond Obedience to ancient Custom.

Hawking, practised in this Country as early as the Saxon Times, continued gradually to decline in fashionable repute, until the Restoration, subsequently to which Period, it seems to have been entirely superseded by the improved Fowling Piece, to which that noble Contrivance the Lock and Cock had been added. With such an Implement for bringing down Game upon the Wing, by the exertion of his own personal skill, the Sportsman had little need for a recourse to that of the Hawk, or desire to ride Star-gazing about the Country, and watching a Bird Hunt in the Air. Nevertheless, such was once a noble and princely Sport, and an intimate Knowledge therein, held an indispensable part of the Education of a great Man, whilst Reading and Writing were

matters of such inferior Estimation, as to be held proper for needy persons only, and those of inferior degree. Well might Sir Francis Burdett wonder, where the Barons assembled at Runnemede, picked up that distinguished Portion of Political Knowledge there displayed; since in all probability, few of them were able to inscribe their noble Names, otherwise than with a +, or hammer out much in the reading way beyond a *Pater Noster*. But we see or read of a Play, without being able to discover or give a History of the Prompter. By the way, it is a curious Reflection that, the deposit of such rare Principles, must necessarily have been with the Clergy, derived in great part no doubt from Saxon Usage, and in probability, also from the more pure and precise source of the Italian Republics. At any rate, we ought to hold that Era in no slight degree of admiration, for at what other do we behold in the Clergy and Nobility of a Country, the revolutionary Advocates of the Rights of Man?

There was, *more Majorum*, according to the Custom of our Sporting Ancestors, a *Slang* appertaining to Falconry, which, on repetition, would at this Time be perfectly ludicrous. Gervase Markham tells us that—"Hawks are divided into two kind, that is to say, short winged Hawks, as the Goshawk and her Tercell, the Sparrow Hawk and her Musket, and such like, whose Wings are shorter than their Trains, and do belong to the Ostringer: and long winged Hawks, as the Faulcon-

gentle, and her Tercell, the Gerfalcon and Jerkin, the Lanner, Merlin, Hobby, and divers others." From Markham we learn that, the Hawk, like the Race-horse, requires Scouring or Purgation to prepare him for Flight, and that Aloes *Cicatrine*, as he styles it, is the best Purge for Hawks; the Dose of the size of a Bean, being wrapped up in her Meat. Hawks are for Field or River, and the largest Size were used for the largest Kinds of Game. Foreigners from all parts were introduced, and mixed with our native Breeds.

Our chief modern Falconer, Colonel Thornton, counsels those few Gentlemen, who still follow the noble Amusement of Falconry in this Country, to supply themselves with Hawks of all Ages, by trapping them, without having recourse to the tedious Expedient of taking them from the Nest. The Trap recommended for this purpose by the Colonel, is on the Plan of the Goldfinch Trap-Cage, enlarged to the size of the Hawk, to be baited with two House Sparrows, or other small Birds. This Plan has been successful, and may be a useful Aid to the Guns of the Keepers, upon Estates where Hawks abound, to the Destruction of Hare, Partridge, and all kinds of Game. It is further said that, Eagles, Herons, Vultures, and the larger Birds of Prey, which do so much Mischief in the North, might be caught in similar Cages of proportionate Dimensions. Colonel Thornton farther gives Instructions for Pheasant-Hawking with the Goshawk, in Coverts; but I

should apprehend that, the necessary fuss and trouble of this Diversion, so superior to either its Pleasure or its Profit, will weigh too heavy in the Scale, opposite to that of any Recommendation in its favour. With respect to my own opinion, I have a heavier and more forcible objection to Hawking, which is the Cruelty with which it is invariably attended, in the Trespasses on the Feelings of those Birds, that are sacrificed in feeding and luring the Hawk. When at large, they have their fair and natural chance of Escape. In this Sport, wretched Pigeons, Fowls, and other Birds are held almost in contact, or in sight of that Enemy, of which Nature has furnished them with an instinct .e and mortal Dread, and they exist under those cruelly protracted Agonies, until the long expected moment arrive, of their being torn alive Limb from Limb. We have even Instructions in some of the Old Writers, to tear open the Breast of a living Bird with our Fingers, for the Gratification or Teasing of the Hawk! Of the agonizing Apprehensions of those poor harmless Victims, any one may judge, who has held a Wild Pigeon in his Hands, and attended to the beating of its Heart. The Cruelties of brute and undistinguishing Nature, are surely sufficient, let not the Sum be exaggerated and increased by human Reason, the first Duty of which is to discriminate.

The Office of GRAND FALCONER of England, is hereditary in the *Duke of St. Albans*, as that of MATER OF THE GAME is, in the Duke of Graf-

ton. But Hawks are no longer kept for Royal Diversion. The Salary attached to the Office of Grand Falconer is 982*l.* 10*s.* per Annum, and 30*l.* each Lunar Month, making together 1372*l.* 10*s.* but from various deductions, it does not *net* above one Thousand Pounds per Year.

An early Writer gives the following account of their proficiency in the Art of training the Hawk, in the Eastern Countries. In the vicinity of Nazereth, in the Holy Land, an Arab mounted on a swift Courser, let loose a Falcon which he had on his fist, at an Antelope on the Summit of a Mountain, which flying in a direct line like an Arrow, fixed the Talons of one of his Feet into the Antelope's Cheeks, and those of the other into its Throat; extending his Wings obliquely over the Animal, spreading one towards one of its Ears, and the other to the opposite Hip. The Antelope thus attacked, made a leap twice the height of a Man, and freed himself from the Hawk; but being wounded, and losing both its Strength and Speed, it was again attacked by the Hawk, which then fixed the Talons of both his Feet into its Throat, and held it fast, until the Huntsman coming up, took it alive, and cut its Throat. The Falcon was allowed to drink the Blood, as a reward for his labour; and a young Falcon in training, was likewise put to the Throat.

THE CHASE.

The modern Chase, in this Country, is divided into Fox, Deer, and Hare Hunting, Coursing the Hare, Otter Hunting, and the Pursuit of inferior Animals, such as the Badger, Martern or Marten, and Squirrel, which may not inaptly be styled *la petitte Chasse*, the lower or lesser Chace.

In ancient Times, anterior to the Progress of Cultivation in the three Kingdoms, Beasts of Prey usually found in Countries, the Surface of which is covered with Forests, were objects of *Venery*, or of the Chase. The chief of those was the Wolf, and the Wild Boar was joined in this species of military chase, the intent of which was a union of the pleasures of Hunting, with the exercise of Hardihood and personal Prowess. How great a

portion of Patriotism, and of a desire to clear the Country of dangerous Animals, subsisted with those Views, may perhaps be best determined by the tenor of the Forest Laws. The frightful Devastations of the Country, and cruel Breaches of social Right, in favour of their Hunting System, by the Tyrant Plantagenets and their Associates in the Sovereingty, the Barons, have been chronicled with a horrible minuteness, and afterwards controverted, whether with regard to the Rights of Truth, or with the common Views of Palliation. But the following abominable suggestions of the grossest Passions, nicknamed Laws, may, in the second instance, be assumed as a rule of Judgment. The Heads and Hearts which could conceive, and the Hands which could execute, the Forest Laws, could possibly have little scruple for the same Purposes, to lay waste three or four score miles of Country, and to turn out to misery and want, the wretched Inhabitants; Animals in their Sovereign estimation, of far less worth and consequence than the Beasts of Chase. The stealing a Hawk was punished by a Fine, equal to that, which was decreed for the Murder of a Slave. The hunting or coursing a Royal Stag, until he panted, by a *Freeman*, was punished by his loss of Liberty for one Year; if a *Bondman*, he was outlawed. What an unjust and senseless division of *Men* into free and bond, free and not free! Among other Punishments for offending against the Game Laws, in those dark Ages, which, shame to modern en-

lightened Europe, subsisted on the Continent in all probability, until within the last twenty or thirty years, were CASTRATION, LOSS of EYES, and cutting off the HANDS and FEET! Laws, which some Centuries afterwards, found their Counterpart in those, which condemned to Imprisonment in Chains, Banishment, and Death, that Vagrancy and Beggary, which was the necessary creation of a vicious and monopolizing System of Government.

If we may judge by analogy of the following Passage from Xenophon, as given by Mr. Daniel, the great Hunters of Classical Antiquity, had some sense of regard for human Rights and Property.—" In hunting cultivated Lands, the Sportsman should abstain from damaging the Fruits of the Earth that are in Season." The Revolution in France compelled this justice. Its previous state may be appreciated by the well-known Motion in the National Assembly, of a Farmer Deputy, for the Suppression of *Pigeons, Rabbits*, and *Monks*, which he justified by the averment that —' the first devour us in the Seed, the second in the Blade, and the third in the Sheaf.' Since the late counter-revolutionary Change, however, in France, Complaints of this Nature have revived, and although they have been suppressed instead of redressed in that Country, they have found their way over hither, and that Publicity which is their due, through the openness of our Press, and the liberality of one of our public Prints. The Inha-

bitants of the Communes of *Beau-repaire, Verneuil, Fleurine, Villers-Saint Francbourg, Ivillé, Pompoint, Pont St. Maxence*, in January last, presented a Petition, containing One Hundred and Forty-Six Signatures, attested by their respective Mayors, to their House of Lords, setting forth that—

"Situated on the Borders, and in the Interior of the Forests of *Alate*, and of *Chantilly*, these Communes see their Fields, and even their Gardens, a Prey to the Ravages of a prodigious number of wild Boars. All efforts are ineffectual to drive them off. Discouragement spreads every where. It is remembered with dread that, thirty Years ago, the Country had been a Desert from the same Cause. In 1789, the Inhabitants themselves were permitted to destroy these dangerous Animals, and a few Weeks sufficed to clear all the Territories of them. Within eight years they appeared again; and especially *within three Years*, they multiply in an alarming manner. This very Year, in which the Dearth of Grain renders it so precious, the Communes have had still more to suffer from this Devastation. They have already destroyed all the Rye which has been sown. The Prince's (supposed of Condé) Hunts, for which these Forests are reserved, are of no sort of Utility. Those alone who have an interest to struggle against this Scourge, are able to destroy it. Already at different times, Petitions have been addressed to the local Authorities: some have had no effect, others

have been followed by very insufficient measures."

We have in the above, a home felt Example of the inestimable benefits of the LIBERTY OF THE PRESS, and of an Intercommunication between Nations, for their mutual Improvement. But for a Nation to submit to the Tyranny of which we have been discoursing, it must be completely immersed in political darkness, and under the fatal influence of Religious Superstition, the most highly approved Pander of Political Slavery. Where Light and Despotism subsist together, in the same Country, the blame ought rationally to attach to the People, not to the Tyrants, who are but acting the parts which Nature has assigned them, an example which it is the duty of the People to follow. In this Country, the open and unveiled practice of Despotism, has long been suppressed; and Anecdotal History furnishes us with an Example in a late Reign, granting its authenticity may be depended upon, of the sovereign power of a Proprietor over his own Domain. It is related that, some time after the Accession of George I. to the Throne of these Kingdoms, he had a Hunting Party, and that he pursued the Track of the Game, over a Gentleman's Fence, into his Enclosure or Park, where he chanced to be then walking. The Gentleman is said to have accosted the King, with—"Stop, Sir, this is not a Patent Path." The Royal Sportsman, unaccustomed to such freedom of Address, replied with emotion—"Do you

know who you have, Sir?" "Yes," rejoined the Gentleman, "I know that I have the King of Great Britain talking to me, but I am a King upon my own Property." With great presence of mind, the Story continues, and a frankness that did honour to Royalty itself, the King, clapping his hand on the Pommel of the Saddle, exclaimed with an air of Exultation and Pleasure—"I am the greatest King on Earth, for while other Monarchs rule over Slaves, I reign over Princes."

They who are apprized of the capabilities and motives of our extensive and noble Anecdote Manufactory, need no Guide, with respect to the degrees of credence to be bestowed upon the above shining Specimen. Those not in the secret, will be startled at any demur, and dreading to be undeceived, will be apt to exclaim with the Poet, *Pol! me occidistis, amici*—nevertheless if they chuse, they may accept a needful caution, with respect to the fine and memorable Sayings of Princes and great Men, in general, about as much intituled to credit as the Speeches in *Livy*, or any other ancient Historian. At the period alluded to, George I. could scarcely muster half a dozen words of English; and perhaps, from what is known of his Character, was as unlikely a Monarch as ever sate upon the British Throne, to make the Speech attributed to him, or to assume an *exulting* and theatrical Air from the *Pommel* of his Saddle. This then, may very well couple with the impressive dying Words, so full of the *Amor Patriæ*, of

General Wolfe at Quebec. The General was a brave Soldier, and a liberal and high-souled Character, as he evinced when Colonel Wolfe, on a certain very delicate Occasion; nevertheless, although in anecdotal, or *useful* truth he did, in actual and real truth he did not, utter one single Word, after being stricken with the fatal Ball, as was testified by a Native of the Isle of Wight, who assisted in taking him up, and carrying him to a place of Safety. His faculties were instantly suspended by the stroke of Death, his Eyes fixed, and his Face pallid as already a Corpse.

Late Complaints there no doubt have been, of Oppression, and of great and extensive Damages done to cultivated Land, by Deer Hunting and Fox Hunting; but these Shadows of former and obsolete Tyranny, will gradually vanish off a Stage of more just and rational principles of Action. The Cause of Common Sense and National Profit, has a Noble Champion in the Earl of Essex. British Hunting in old Times, or ought we not rather, in imitation of an acute Observer, to style them *young* Times, since we are so many Centuries older than they?—partook of all that Grandeur and Parade, which are yet in fashion upon the Continent; but the English soon improved upon the Instructions of their Norman Masters, and have ever excelled the Nations of the Continent, in the Arts and Practice of Hunting and other Field Sports, and in the decided Superiority of their Dogs and Horses, notwithstanding they

have been generally indebted to other Countries for the *bases* of the Breeds of those Animals. The English Ladies even, in former times, used to participate, although it is probable, not very generally, with their Lords and Gentlemen, in the pleasures, fatigues, and dangers of the Chase; in which for safety sake, they rode astride like men. This Custom, it is said, was abolished by our *Virgin* Queen, or by some other Princess not very remote from her time; and although we have since been occasionally honoured with the presence of a capital Horsewoman in the Field, among the foremost of whom may be reckoned Lady Craven, Margravine of Anspach, not to forget a late female Jockey, they have ridden in the modest, although dangerous mode, universally appropriated to their sex. Some few and rare examples have occurred of an ambition to excel in the ancient Style of Riding, both in the Field and upon the Road; and I remember, many years ago, two young Ladies, the Daughters of a Man of Rank, in *******, who sported their *Doe-skins* and Mens' Hats, riding astride, to the infinite surprize and amusement of the Neighbourhood; keeping up a *haut ton* by also sporting and using their *Work Bags* at the Theatre!

It may not be improper, were it even merely *pro forma*, for Etiquette sake, to endeavour to convey some general idea to the Reader, of the Nature of Hunting the WOLF and the WILD BOAR, as practised by our Anglo-Saxon and Norman Ances-

tors. The Wolf is one of the most solitary, naturally and determinedly, savage and blood-thirsty of Animals; and although gregarious, his Society is rather a state of quarrel and warfare, than of amity. Hunger impels them to assemble, generally in the Winter Season, when their savage Howlings are dreadful Notes of Apprehension to the unfortunate Neighbourhood, where they abound. The Wolf breeds annually, producing from five to ten Whelps at a Litter, being sufficiently prolific to stock a Country most abundantly, where is Covert and Provision for them, and where they are indolently suffered to exist. As lately as the first Quarter of the last Century, during severe Frosts, Wolves were to be seen in various parts of the Continent, to the number of several Hundreds in a *Rout*, laying whole Districts waste, by devouring Sheep, Cattle, and Horses, and even attacking the Villages. At the present Day, no Season passes, without some Accident to Life or Property, from the Wolves, in France and the neighbouring Countries; yet measures, it seems, are constantly taken for their destruction, by Poison, Snares, and the Gun. Surely a considerable number of *Watch-Houses*, in which large Guns might be fixed, would be among the most effectual Remedies.

In the Reign of *Athelstan the Saxon*, Wolves so abounded in Yorkshire, that a sort of Fort was erected at Flixton, in that County—" to defend Passengers from the Wolves, that they should not be devoured by them." And such havoc was made

by these terrible Marauders, during the Winter, and when the Frost was most severe and pinching, that January was distinguished by the Saxons, as the *Wolf Month.* Such active and effectual Measures were however adopted, in this Land of energy, by leasing Lands in the districts most infested, on the tenure of *Wolf-hunt*, by accepting Wolves Heads as tribute, and as a commutation of Punishment for Crimes, that Wolves have totally disappeared in England and Wales, for some Centuries, although *one* remained in Scotland, to fall by the hands of the brave Sir Ewen Cameron, as lately as the Year 1680.

The ancient Wolf and Wild Boar HUNT was a sort of Warfare, or Military Hunting, since the pleasure consisted not merely in the Pursuit of Game, but in the vanquishing an Animal, which would defend himself at the last, with the most determined Resolution, and to the probable maiming or destruction of some of his Assailants, whether Dogs, or Men. Indeed, with whatever of Honour, a Chase of this kind might partake, the Wolf or Boar being at full growth, it seldom concluded without some serious Danger or Accident to the Dogs at least, unless the opportunity occurred, which was never neglected, of effectually using the Cross Bow or Spear. The Gentlemen and their Attendants were always on Horseback, their Horses being trained for the purpose; and although the honour, in all justice and fairness ought to be awarded to the animal, who singly and bravely coped with such a Host

of armed Assailants, yet the latter often encountered sufficient Danger, the limbs of many of the most feward Dogs being broken, or their Entrails torn out, and not seldom the Horses and their Riders severely wounded. Blood Hounds, Mastiffs and Greyhounds, or mixtures of those, were used in these perilous Hunts, in Relays, and Packs of considerable number. The Dogs had generally substantial Collars for their protection, to which sometimes Bells were attached, and the whole was conducted in the midst of the greatest Noise that could possibly be made by the Hunters and Dogs. The Haunts being well marked, trails were made with Horse Flesh, or Carcases of Sheep, to draw the Wolf from his Den or Covert, and the Hunt commenced early in the Morning, in order to intercept him. As the Coverts were drawn, and the Wolf unkennelled, He would stand to bay, or run, according to circumstances, and the Diversion consisted both in the Combat and the Chace.

The Terms formerly in use to express the different periods of Life in the WILD BOAR, are scarcely worth repetition, since the Animal itself can never more become an inmate of this country, until it can be said, the chaos of Barbarism is come again. Whatever mischief he may occasion, at the present time, in other countries, the report of him in this, is nothing but what is good. A cross of him with our native Sow, makes the finest Pork we have. His flesh, it is to be presumed, must have been in repute with our ancient Hun-

ters, who esteemed him so highly as a Beast of Chace, that William the Norman punished, with the loss of Eyes, those who were convicted of killing him without his authority. Charles I. had commenced breeding Wild Boars in the New Forest, until the Civil Wars afforded that unfortunate Hunter, a still more dangerous kind of Chase; in the meantime, his Wild Boars were soon eradicated. Could such a thing be desirable, a breed of Wild Swine, as fierce and savage as Hunter's Heart could wish, might easily and speedily be raised. As we domesticate and tame wild Animals, so the Swine particularly, being turned out to shift for himself, or straying away, retrogrades, with great facility, to the state of Nature; and both the Boar and the Sow are particularly of high courage, fierce and voracious. Several Wild Boars of this accidental kind have *flourished* within my memory; in particular, two in the Woods between Mersey Island and Colchester, in Essex, which, many years since, were the terror of that neighbourhood for a considerable time, and stood many a gallant Hunt. Speed being a prime object in Beasts of Venery, none in Britain could be better qualified for Wild Boar making, than the old Breeds of Pigs, in Cornwall and Wales, which rivalled the Lurcher in form and action.

Hunting of the Wild Boar resembled, in most points, that of the Wolf, the same breeds of Dogs being employed, and the twofold Objects in view

of Chase and Combat; for the latter the Hunters being prepared with well trained Horses, seasoned Dogs, suitably defensive Habiliments, and Arms, which consisted of Cross Bows, Swords, and Spears. The Boar Spears, or Pikes, were broad and divided into several tines or forks. The season for hunting the Wild Boar began in September and ended at Christmas. This Animal, it cannot be supposed, has the Speed, or Runs so long as the Wolf, nor does he ever by choice trust himself to the open Country; but when he is roused from his Den, which is in the thickest and most thorny part of the Forest, he runs constantly to Covert, watchfully listening to the Cry, and if not headed, often making a Circle, and retracing his steps to the Den from whence he was roused. A Boar will sometimes lie so close, that he is with difficulty roused by all the Thunder which proceeds from the baying of the Dogs, the Noise of the Horses, and Shouts of the Hunters. Being roused, it is said he will stand the bay with five or six couple of Dogs, and perhaps spoil the greater part of them, not flinching until the Hunters ride in upon him, when he will turn tail, and make way through the thickest recesses. In this Hunt, success seems to consist in the number of Dogs, and their being judiciously hunted, so as to surround the Boar, and give a fair chance to the Hunters, by whose Spears or Shot he is usually dispatched. There is great danger with young Dogs, when first entered, many passionate and forward ones

being destroyed at the first onset, and few acquire their seasoning without some severe hurts. The Boar instinctively receives all Blows upon his Snout, which is his Guard, and the Spearmen expert at this Exercise, in consequence, strike high, above his Head, aiming to wound him behind the Ear, in the middle of the Forehead, or upon the Shoulder, either of which Strokes, home directed, will prove mortal. He dies bravely, without uttering Cry or Groan. It is obvious, no untrained Horse could be got near a Wolf or Boar, and the Danger would be great in using a Spear from such a Horse, as from his unsteadiness, the Hunter would be liable to wound him in making his Stroke. The Bites of either of the enraged Animals, are extremely difficult of Cure. English Gentlemen have complained that, even with their own Hounds, they can make no hand of Wolf and Boar Hunting, upon the Continent, but they ought to consider that, *tempora mutantur;* that the Age of Chivalry in this line, is past; that the old Preparation, Pomp, and Circumstance of Hunting, no longer please, and Diversion is no longer valued in proportion to its Hazards and its Perils.

The Chase, in this Country, has long since been divested by circumstances, of a distinguished and prominent feature in ancient Hunting—the Pursuit of Beasts of Prey, as a *preparatory* School, in which the youthful Aspirant fleshed his Sword, became familiar with personal danger, and habituated to deeds of Blood. Diversion and Convivi-

ality are now our sole objects, Health our pretence. Hunting in Britain and Ireland possesses an acknowledged Character of Superiority over that of all other Countries, grounded in some respects, on an inbred propensity in the People, and the attachment of the landed Proprietors to their Estates in the Country; but chiefly to the scientific maturity, if I may be allowed such a phrase, of our Sporting Systems, and to the elaborated excellence of our Breeds of Dogs and Horses. There is no other Country in Europe, where our Plan of *speedy* Chase, continued also so many miles over an inclosed Country, is either practised, understood, or relished. The great Hunting Establishments in France, previous to the Revolution, were merely theatres of Profligate Expence, to which their grand *Noblesse* occasionally resorted for the *sporting* purpose of butchering Waggon loads of Game, with precisely the same degree of knowledge and equal *gout*, as is shewn by a froward and mischievous Boy, who delights to knock on the head every Animal he comes near. *D'Orléans*, afterwards Citizen *Egalité*, and a precious Citizen truly was he, according to report, declared upon the Course at Epsom, several years before the Revolution broke out, that "he equally despised the political and hunting Systems of his Country." He had already begun to innoculate his Countrymen with the *Anglomania* for Racing and Hunting. With respect to the Turf, the infection

had spread, and but for the Revolutionary War, France would probably soon have rivalled us, both upon the Turf and in the Chase.

In this Country, "the Charms of the Chase" have an almost universal influence, even to fascination. They form one of our grand National lyrical Subjects, and are held very convenient rivals to certain others, National likewise, which would mope mortal Man to Death before his time. Not only the Noble, the Squire, the Parson, and the Farmer, delight in the Joys of the Chase, and have always a spare Neck for Fox Hunting, but the Country Labourer, the Citizen, and the Mechanic, are inspired by the same enthusiastic ardour, which only waits the occasion to call it forth, in which the latter make few distinctions as to the object—*a hunt* is every thing, and all is fish that comes to net. I shall again draw a Text from our old Friend *the Squire*, on the effect which the Chase has in arousing and stimulating to action, the Minds and Bodies of Englishmen. The old Buck, however, brimfull of his subject, his imagination heated, and his judgment undermost, cannot restrain his rapid Goose Quill, which, like a runaway Horse, dashes over hill and dale into the thickets of point blank contradiction.—

"The Vulgar cannot have the least Notion of these noble Entertainments. These Things are above the Apprehension of those who inhabit *blind Alleys* and dark Piazzas. Our wise Citizens have

prudently ordained the Morning for *Sleeping*: since he that is first up, and abroad in the Streets, is sure to be treated with a Thousand Prospects of the *Hesternæ Crapulæ*. But foh! let us return to the delicious Country.

"I wish our morose Philosophers could but once be Witnesses of the Gladness I have often diffused through a whole Parish by a Visit with my Cry! Poor fainting Puss having in vain made trial of the Hills and Heath-Fields, at last ventures to expose her Fortune to the Highways and Villages. The Pack follows with full Mouth, making the Tower and Chimneys echo to the tuneful Melody. At the enchanting Sound, what single Soul does not forget every Call of Mammon or the Flesh, and (throwing down his Food, his Tools, or his Prayer Book) run out to partake? the Thresher in his Shirt and reeden Fillet, hastily exposes the open Barn to the Pigs and Poultry; the whistling Ploughman drops his Tune, and leaves his Cattle staring at the Tumult: and the Taylor follows after, Slipshod and Hatless, with his Thread over his Shoulder. The School-boy flies from the hated Bellfry to the top of the Tower: the old Women hobble out three Steps beyond the Door, before they think on their Crutches; and even the Parson of the Parish (though the gravest Man alive) mounts the old Pacer; and if he can but keep in upon the *Canterbury*, is so gay and youthy, as to join his Halloo in Chorus with the Boys. Such a Moment is able

to bring him back from Sixty to Eighteen." I really believe, I caught my late habit of the inordinate use of Capital Letters, from this emphatical and dashing literary Squire.

In turn, let us humanize a while, from the harmonious numbers of that soft hearted and inspired Scot, *Jamie Thomson*, who had not one drop in his heart, of that black blood which inflated the veins of a certain other Scotchman, prompting him to teach that—*the spectacle of a few labourers perishing in the Streets for want, might operate as a useful example of industry*—nor of those at the present time, who write themselves into reputation and preferment, on the same *just*, *humane*, and politic principle.

> " Upbraid, ye ravening tribes, our wanton rage,
> For hunger kindles you, and lawless want,
> But lavish fed, in Nature's bounty roll'd,
> To joy at anguish, and delight in blood,
> Is what your horrid bosoms never knew.
>
> " Poor is the triumph o'er the timid hare:
> Scar'd from the corn, and now to some lone seat
> Retir'd, the rushy fen; the ragged furze,
> Stretch'd o'er the stony heath; the stubble chapt;
> The thistly lawn; the thick-entangled broom;
> Of the same friendly hue, the wither'd fern;
> The fallow ground laid open to the sun,
> Concoctive: and the nodding sandy bank,
> Hung o'er the mazes of the mountain brook.
> Vain is her best precaution: tho' she sits
> Conceal'd with folded ears, unsleeping eyes,
> By Nature rais'd to take the horizon in;
> And head couch'd close betwixt her hairy feet;

In act to spring away. The scented dew
Betrays her early labyrinth; and deep,
In scatter'd sullen openings, far behind,
With every breeze she hears the coming storm,
But nearer and more frequent, as it loads
The sighing gale, she springs amaz'd, and all
The savage soul of game is up at once:
The pack full-opening, various; the shrill horn
Resounding from the hills; the neighing steed,
Wild for the chase; and the loud hunter's shout:
O'er a weak, harmless, flying creature, all
Mix'd in mad tumult, and discordant joy.

" The stag, too, singled from the herd, where long
He rang'd the branching monarch of the shades,
Before the tempest drives. At first, in speed
He, sprightly, puts his faith; and, rous'd by fear,
Gives all his swift aerial soul to flight;
Against the breeze he darts, that way the more
To leave the lessening murderous cry behind:
Deception short! tho' fleeter than the winds
Blown o'er the keen-air'd mountain by the north,
He bursts the thickets, glances thro' the glades,
And plunges deep into the wildest wood;
If slow, yet sure, adhesive to the track.
Hot-steaming up behind him come again
The inhuman rout, and from the shady depth
Expel him, circling thro' his every shift.
He sweeps the forest oft, and sobbing sees
The glades mild-opening to the golden day;
Where, in kind contest, with his butting friends
He went to struggle, or his loves enjoy.
Oft in the full-descending flood he tries
To lose the scent, and lave his burning sides;
Oft seeks the herd; the watchful herd alarm'd,
With selfish care avoid a brother's woe.
What shall he do? His once so vivid nerves,
So full of buoyant spirit, now no more
Inspire the course; but fainting breathless toil
Sick seizes on his heart: he stands at bay;

And puts his last weak refuge in despair.
The big round tears run down his dappled face;
He groans in anguish; while the growling pack,
Blood-happy, hang at his fair jutting chest,
And mark his beauteous checker'd sides with gore.
"Of this enough."

THOMSON.

I must freely own that, these sentiments of the Poet, at once so humane and rational, have ever had considerable weight in my mind, and I humbly conceive, that Hunting would lose nothing, either of its charms and allurements, or its real advantages, by a distinction in favour of the timid and harmless Animals; to which, in the words of the Author I am about to quote, "the Gun and the Knife, might afford a speedy and unexpected exit." Time perhaps, and habits of gradual reflection, may work this change in their favour, and I by no means presume to advocate their cause, in the style of a hissing hot Enthusiast; far from which, were I at this instant mounted, and in view of a Hare or Stag Hunt, the probability is that, I should leave reflection behind me—Tally ho! and join the jovial Chase. Thus much however, of matter of fact may be adduced, on the side of distinction—no small number of our staunchest and mightiest Hunters before the Lord, have all other except Fox Hunting in supreme contempt, styling Coursing and Hare Hunting, *child's play*, and the Chase of the Deer *Calf Hunting;* and I remember thirty years ago, it was a standing joke with your staunch old Fox-hunters, "*A Cockney, who rides a Calf*

Hunting with the King!" The following quotation will shew that, a man may make humane distinctions, and yet be no Enemy to the Sports of the Field.

"Hunting the Fox, which is a beast of prey, greedy of blood, a robber prowling about, seeking what creature he may devour, is not liable to a single one of the preceding objections, nor indeed to any one, in a moral view, with which I am acquainted. He is a fair object of Sport, who sports with the feelings of all other creatures subjected to his powers: and a fierce and pugnaceous Animal can be liable to none of those horrors, either in his pursuit or capture, which must inevitably agonize the feelings of the timid. I could never agree with the fastidious disciples of the Chesterfield School, who condemn this noble Sport *in toto*, merely because a number of Blockheads may chance to be attached to it; I hold it an exercise by no means unbecoming the Student or Philosopher, who may seek and find health in the pleasing fatigues of the Chase; who will feel the sympathetic and musical chords of the Soul, vibrating to the harmony of the deep-toned Pack; who will find ample cause of admiration at the wonderful and various instinctive gifts of Nature, in the sagacity and perseverance of the high-bred Hound; whilst borne as it were, on the wings of the Wind, across the "Country wide," scarcely conscious of obstacle, by their fleet and staid Coursers, they acquire hardihood, a love of enterprize,

and contempt of danger. The labours of the day ended, the genial banquet awaits the elated and keen-set Sportsman; the purple and golden nectar circulates briskly, among these terrestrial Gods—Not one of them, but in his mind, echoes similar sentiments with the jovial Archdeacon of Oxford, in ancient days, old Walter de Mapes.

Mihi sit propositum in taberno mori,
Vinum sit appositum morientis ori,
Ut dicant, cum venerint Angelorum chori,
Deus sit propitius huic potatori.

"Now goes round the Song of triumph in full Chorus, 'the Traitor is seized on and dies'—until the hospitable and almost responsive walls resound. The happy Domestics, those humble friends of generous opulence, recovered from their fatigues, become inspired by the general joy, and instinctively join in the chorus. The Song is relieved by pleasing relations of hair-breadth 'scapes; of the staunchness and speed of the Hounds, and the blood and game of the Horses; nor is love and beauty, the delight and reward of true Sportsmen, ever forgotten—old friendships are cemented, new ones cordially formed. Happy if no acts of unmanly cruelty have passed, to cloud the sunshine of mirth in the bosom of sensibility."—*Lawrence's Philosophical and Practical Treatise on Horses.*

The Works of *Markham* were quoted at page 125, on the Subject of Hounds. He flourished in

the Reigns of Elizabeth and James I. as a Writer of the greatest authority on all Veterinary and Rural Subjects, and his numerous Works had the most wonderfully extensive circulation, until within the last three or four-score years, when men of superior pretensions, regular Surgeons and Physicians, first began to bestow their attention in this Country, on the *Res Veterinaria*, the Veterinary Subject, but chiefly as it related to the Horse. The date of this *Era* may be fixed at about 1720. But *Markham* is very sufficient, indeed the best authority for our present purpose, which is merely to take a glance at the state of Hunting in his time, and to determine as to the agreement in the basis and principles of the Sport, which subsists between that period and the present time. It will perhaps thence appear, that certain, not altogether just conclusions, have been formed.

Markham says—"Some love Hunting for the exercise of their own Bodies, some for the Chase they hunt, some for the running of the Hounds, and some for the training of their Horses, whereby they may find the excelling of their goodness and indurance." This latter part refers to their mixing the Chase with Racing, in *Steeple Running* and matching their Horses to run *Train-Scents*, practices long since out of date, excepting that a match across the Country to a Steeple, may periodically occur between two Men, who have more of the daring in their Constitution, than he who can snuff a candle with his fingers. A Race of this kind

may, I think, be found in the Sporting Magazine, within these year or two.

Most of the grand points in the Book of Mr. Beckford, deservedly our Oracle on the Subject of Hunting, are to be found in *Gervase Markham*, which shews how early they had been considered and weighed, and rules of practice founded thereon. The *middle sized Hound* was already preferred, the harmony of the Pack in Music and Size regulated, and a decided preference given to *speedy* Hunting, for which the best bred Horses, calculated either for the Chase or the Turf, were chosen by Sportsmen of the greatest name. This being the case, at what period are we to look for the *Old English Hunter*, the loss of which some Writers lament so feelingly, describing him as a Horse equal to very high weights, and of a common or indigenous description. To look at the Portraits of our old English strong Horses of the common kind, they would be objects of choice I conceive, to very few Sportsmen. The truth is, the old English Hunter was, as the modern Hunter is, often a thorough bred Racer, still oftener a seven eighth or three parts bred Horse, sometimes but half bred. Perhaps short legged Horses of this description, fit for the Field, might be formerly in greater plenty than at present. Rules for the Situation and Construction of the KENNEL, the rising *Ground* or *Hill*, the convenience of *Water*, the fenced *green Court*, the *House or Lodge*, the *Cauldron* for cookery, and all other essentials so strongly insisted upon by

latter Writers, are to be found in Markham. Hear his Panegyric on Hunting.

"Now for as much as these Sports are many and divers, I think it not amisse to begin and give that recreation precedency of place, which in mine opinion (however it may be esteemed partial) doth many degrees goe before, and precede all other, as being most royall for the statelenes thereof, most artificiall for the wisdome and cunning thereof, and most manly and warlike for the use and indurance thereof. And this I hold to be the hunting of wild Beasts in generall." On the composition of a Kennell of Hounds he teaches—

"When you intend to set up a Kennel of Hounds, examine your fancy what be the best pleasures you take in Hounds, whether it be cunning in Hunting, sweetnesse, loudnesse, or deepnesse of Crie, whether it be for the training of your Horse, or else but merely for the exercise of your own body"—"if it be for cunning Hunters, you shall breed your dogges from the slowest and largest of the Northern Hounds, and the swiftest and slenderest of the West Country Hounds, being both male and female, approved to be staunch, faire, and even running, of perfect fine sent, and not given to lie off *(Skirters)* or looke for advantages. These Hounds will neither be so exceeding slow, that you will wait many dayes without some fruit of your labour, nor so unnimble, that you shall need men to help them over every Hedge, as I have many times seen to my much wonder, but

having both strength and nimblenesse, will hold you in continual delight and exercise: for they are neither so swift that they will far out runne the sent, and so fetch many tedious rings to recover it, nor so slow, that for want of speed they will lose the sent, and let it grow cold by their own lasinesse—so that I conclude the middle sized hound, of good strength, sound mouth, and reasonable speed, which will make a horse gallop fast and not runne, is the best for the true art and use of Hunting." The following passage will shew that, speedy Hunting, with *bred* Horses, is by no means a novelty.

"If you would have your Kennell for the trayning of your Horse onely, labouring thereby to bring him to the full perfection of speed, truth and toughness, then you shall compound your Kennel of the lightest, nimblest and swiftest dogges, such as for the most part, all your Northern Hounds are, which running swiftly away with the Chase, will draw your Horse up to that extraordinary speed, that he will forget all ease or loitering, and acquaint himself daily with the violence of such exercise, being so familiar therewith, that in the end it will be less troublesome to him than a slow gallop; and hence it was and is that the North parts are so famous for the truth and swiftnesse of their Horses above all other Countries in this Kingdom; for it is most certaine that their Horses are not better bred there, than in other places, but their exercise is much stronger, and violent, through

the natural swiftness of their Hounds, insomuch that unlesse a Horse either out of nature or education, be brought to a more than ordinary speed, it is impossible that his master should either see Sport, or keep company with his companions. Therefore I would have al young Gentlemen, which are addicted to the delight of *Hunting or Running Horses*, by all means to train them up after the swiftest Hounds." Here I conceive, we have a stone or two out of *Tenterden Steeple*, in old Gervase's logic; for although it be obvious enough that, the spediest Hounds must require well bred, perhaps thorough bred Horses, it is not quite so clear that, speed and stoutness in Hounds, will create the same qualities in the Horses which follow them.

To the objections made against fast Hunting, *Markham* makes the following answer—" Albeit the labor be for the time most violent, yet it is not of so long continuance as that which is more slow, and to run twelve-score swiftly is not so paineful, as to walk twenty miles: for you must understand that these swift Hounds out of their metall and swiftness, do soone overshoot and run beyond the sent, and then retiring backe upon it againe, give the Horse time to ease himself, and catch new breath, whereas the slower dogges carrying the sent ever before them, keep your Horse in a continuall labour, which is more paineful, and makes him a tough enduring Lackey, but not a most swift running Gentleman; besides the many faults and

castings about of the swift Dogges, adde such a comfort unto the Horse, who perceiveth the strength of his labour to have no ease till hé come up to those faults, that he will out of the willingnesse of his owne nature, double his courage to pursue them most swiftly, seeing his ease is ever the greater, by how much hee keepeth ever neerer to the Hounds; for the danger of bursting, melting his grease, and other infirmities, the discretion of the Rider and skill of the Keeper must prevent."

Our ancient Oracle proceeds to state that, *swift* Hounds, from their haste, nimbleness and mettle, are more liable to come to a fault than the *slow* Hounds, and yet are full as curious and of as delicate a power of scent as the other, which he says may be perceived by the quick apprehension of their own errors, their voluntary casting about and recovering the scent, before the best Huntsman can come on to help them. It was the custom in Markham's time, for every regular Pack of Hounds to have a Couple of good *Finders*, dogs *staunch of mouth*, and not given to open unless they lie upon a certain train. These staunch mouthed Dogs, Hounds or Terriers, were found to promote the Sport, and to improve the young Hounds, silencing and correcting the straggling *babblers*, and rendering them more laborious and correct. In addition to these, no Pack was deemed complete without a Couple of staunch *highway Dogs*, Hounds so named from their superior tenderness of Nose, which enables them to hunt as well upon a dry and

hard-trodden Highway, as upon the freshest mould or newly ploughed earths; such as will hunt as truly through flocks of Sheep, or herds of Beasts, as though their train of Scent had met no interruption The assistance afforded to the Pack by these two descriptions of Hounds were said to spare the Huntsman infinite pains, and to go a great way towards ensuring success.

To come to the HARMONY of the Pack as well in respect to the *Music* of their *Tongues* as to their *Colours* and equal *assortment*, the old opinions and practice were as follows. If Melody or Sweetness of Cry, be the chief object, Gervase Markham thus counselleth; but on this point, a matter of taste, it ought to be remembered that, Sportsmen differ widely, and these quotations are made only to demonstrate how much the Subject had been studied and canvassed in those early days.

"If you would have your Kennell for *sweetnesse* of Cry, then you must compound it of some large Dogges, that have deepe, solemne mouthes, and are swift in spending, which must as it were, beere the base in consort, then a double number of *roaring and loud ringing* mouthes, which must beere the counter tenor, then some hollow, plaine, sweete mouthes, which must beere the meane or middle part: and so with these three parts of Musicke you shall make your Cry perfect: and herein you shall observe that these *Hounds* thus mixt, do *run just and even together, and not hang off loose one from another*, which is the vilest sight

that may bee; and you shall understand that this composition is best to bee made of the swiftest and largest deep mouthed Dog, the slowest middle sized Dog, and the shorter legd slender Dog; amongst these You cast in a Couple or two of small *singing* Beagles, which as small trebles may warble amongst them; the Cry will be a great deal the more sweeter."

"If you would have your Kennel for *loudness of Mouth*, you shall not then choose the hollow deep mouthe, but the *loud clanging* mouthe, which spendeth freely and sharpely, and as it were redoubleth in the utterance; and if you mix with them the mouthe that *roareth*, and the mouthe that whyneth, the Cry will be both the louder and the smarter; and the Hounds are for the most part of the middle size, neither extreme tall, nor extreme deepe flewed, such as for the most part, your Shropshire, and Worcestershire Dogs are; and the more equally you compound these mouthes, having as many *Roarers* as *Spenders*, and as many *Whiners* as of either of the other, the louder and pleasanter your Cry will be, especially if it be in sounding tall Woods, or under the Eccho of Rocks."

For DEEPNESS of Cry, the largest, greatest mouthed and deepest flewed Hounds are recommended; and such were then bred in the Western Counties, Cheshire and Lancashire; to five or six Couple of which, base mouths were to be added, not more than two couple of Counter tenors, as

many of mean voice, and an equal number of *Roarers*; which being heard but now and then, as at the opening or hitting on a scent, produced a pleasant melody, not attainable in the solemn and grave sounds of the deep mouthed cry alone. I have generally presented this old Author, in his own garb of phrase and orthography, to mark the contrast of manner between his time and ours, which is far greater than the contrast of Hunting practice, in essentials at least. Few Sportsmen however of the present day, are such Martinets and Precisians, with respect to the Music of their Pack of Hounds, as were the Masters or the Pupils of Markham. Harmony is yet attainable to a high degree, where abilities of both kinds, are joined in the *Master* of the Pack; and when the Master does not make a *Pope* of his Huntsman, equally the fashion, as a Man of the Turf, pinning his faith on the sleeve of his head Groom. Our chief objects at present, and rational enough, because forced upon us by the nature of the case, are to suit our Hounds and Horses to the soil and condition of the Country, over which they are to hunt; for although good Dogs and good Cattle will perform well in any Country, yet assuredly, a strong bred Hound and a short legged and compact Horse, are pointed out by common sense, as best adapted to deep and uneven lands and thick enclosures.

The topic of Hunting on Foot, or Hunting by the Pole, so little in unison with our present

taste and custom, may be dispatched in a few words. The Pack for this laborious Hunt, was composed of the largest and stoutest Dogs which could be obtained, depth of mouth and close hunting, being the great requisites. And these Hounds were trained to be so staunch and obedient that, when upon the hottest scent, or in full cry, upon the *Pole* being cast before their eyes, they would instantly make a dead stop, and afterwards, watching the signal from the Huntsman, be hark'd forward again, at whatever rate they were directed to keep. I had formerly, a belly full of Coursing on foot, but never saw *premeditated* Hunting on foot, nor can I conceive the very obvious facility of getting near enough upon two legs only, however speedy and stout, to a Pack of even the slowest Hounds running upon a hot scent, to be able to cast the hunting Pole before their eyes.

It is far easier to me to take a leap of the length of two centuries, that is to say, from the time of Markham, to that of Mr. Beckford—who has so well described our present Practice of Hunting, and given such solid and rational advice on the subject, that his Treatise has, from the date of its publication, become a general Text Book. This Gentleman, who seems to make some pretension of belonging to the 'rhyming tribe,' remarks on the great difficulty of finding a rhyme to *porringer:* so great indeed, that he would hope to finish a great part of his Book, before he could complete that rhyme. But—

Had he went to *Horringer*,
He'd found a rhyme to Porringer.

And at *Horringer* in Suffolk, is a Fair, where in case of need, he might have purchased a good Cow or a good Horse, and so have *cramboed* profitably. Mr. Beckford remarks farther, that the game of *Crambo* is out of fashion; perhaps too, that kind of ready wit, which formerly, 'sparkled in a *bon mot* and glittered in a reply' is lamentably out of fashion too. If so, the so often repeated Anecdote of that Prince of *Crambo*, the *pious* Earl of Rochester,

'The earliest Wit and the most sudden Saint,'

may yet bear a repetition. And although I have ventured to expose my little faith in the authenticity of Anecdotes, and of extemporaneous wise and witty sayings, referring generally their origin to the closet, yet I feel myself more inclined to give credit to the whole of the witty *Crambo* attributed to the aforesaid Lord, than to one half of that, which was afterwards related of him, by a certain grave Personage. The old Story, be it a Joe Miller, or fact, is well known. Charles II. that real phenomenon, a witty King!—said to Rochester, whilst in favour, and just arrived at one of the Royal jovial parties—We have all been here some time, *a Crambo*, and cannot find a rhyme to *Lisbon*. Rochester, with little premeditation, ended the difficulty in the following pointed lines—

'Here's a health to Kate,
Our Sov'reign's Mate,
Of the Royal House of Lisbon,
But the Devil take Hyde,
And the Bishop beside,
Who made her bone of his bone!'

Readers of History will recollect 'the barren Sheet' of the Portugal Match.

Let us now chuse the Scite, and construct a Kennel, and then replenish it with Hounds. With respect to accommodations for a few Couples of Hounds, no Person in the Country, and with a little room, need be at a loss. Part of a Barn, or Stable, or Shed, will answer the purpose with the proviso of good shelter, dry lodging, fresh air, and regular sufficient feeding, all which are however *sine quæ non*, of absolute necessity, if either pleasure or profit be seriously aimed at. I advert to this small scale, because I have sometimes known Persons who really had the ability to do better things, incumber themselves, from motives which one feels a difficulty to guess, with a few miserable, neglected, dirty and half manged Hounds, of no possible use themselves, a sore plague to their neighbours, and of which nobody would willingly rid the owner. But our business is with the Kennel upon a considerable and respectable scale.

The preparatory step to the erection of a KENNEL, ought to be the close inspection of several of the highest repute in the Country, for situation and convenience of every kind, the Principal being attended by his proposed Architect. Perhaps ac-

cording to ancient advice, a Dog Kennel ought not to be too near the Mansion House. As actual inspection will afford far more correct and satisfactory information than the most laboured description, it will be necessary only to bring into view the chief points. Mr. Beckford's advice to build to a sufficient extent at first, is good, since after-additions are not always made with convenience, seldom with symmetry; and many Gentlemen have found it more advantageous to pull down and rebuild entirely, than to make additions and repair an old Kennel. If situation can be commanded, 'some little eminence,' in the words of the Poet, will deserve a preference; at any rate a dry foundation, natural or artificial, is of the utmost consequence to the health and prosperity of the Pack. An *East* and Southern Aspect will occur in the same view.

> Fronting to the ruddy dawn; its Courts
> On either hand wide op'ning to receive
> The Sun's all-cheering beams.—

In the front of the Building, should be one, or two Doors, with one opposite, backwards, both for the important purpose of ventilation, and as in other respects, useful. All the windows and doors indeed, must be made conveniently subservient to this great purpose; and equally so to the exclusion of cold, damp and foggy air, inimical in a degree, with the want of air, to the health of domestic Animals. It is of much consequence that, the divisions or rooms in a Kennel, be sufficiently numerous for all those separations, which must be periodically ne-

cessary. For example, the draughting off of Hounds for the next day's Hunt—of the sick or hurt, or weakly which require nursing—of the Bitches in heat—of young or strange Dogs. The floor of each kennel or room, should be laid with bricks or clinkers, a descent on each side to the centre, forming a channel or gutter to carry off the water, none of which ought to be stagnant for an instant; the bricks also being mopped and kept completely dry. The convenience of water must be had through leaden pipes. Stagnant moisture and damp lodging, are not only dangerous to the general health of Hounds, but produce catarrhal affections in the head, which diminish and blunt that acute sense of smelling, the most important property of the Animal; and many times, seemingly unaccountable variations in a Dog's hunting, may be attributed to this perhaps hidden cause. To keep the olfactory Nerves of the Hound, in their highest state of susceptibility and perfection, such care ought to be taken, joined to the most punctilious cleanliness and the avoidance of all fetid and improper scents.

Seats or Benches for the Hounds to rest upon, are both agreeable to the inclinations of the Animals themselves, and of every ancient usage. Markham directs these to be five feet in breadth, and two feet and half in height; they should never be so high, as to render it fatiguing for a tired Dog to leap upon them. These Benches are *hinged* to the Wall, and if thought necessary, may be folded up out of the way with hooks. The several

Courts or Yards, one of which is of Grass for the benefit of the Dogs, the others paved—the feeding Court covered in, the boiling House, and certain useful Store Houses, amply fenced with wall, or lofty paling, complete the Kennel.

The Aspect should secure the presence of the Sun to as late a period of the day as possible, to bask in which, the Dog takes particular delight; nor should shelter against its rays, be deficient in the hot Season. It is thence advantageous to plant trees around the Grass Court, with perhaps a clump in the centre. Mr. Beckford describes a *Mount* in this Court, a convenience, I should suppose particularly agreeable to the Dogs, on which to sit and enjoy themselves in the Sun. The two chief Courts should be as spacious as can possibly be allowed. About them may be placed a sufficient number of *urining Posts*, for the use of the Dogs, which will be at first attracted to them, by straw bound round the bottom, which has been rubbed with *Golbanum*. Both the dung and urine of Dogs, are a powerful Manure, and should be preserved. A *Gallows* is necessary at the back, to hold the flesh for the Hounds, which formerly used to be preserved under water. The Gallows should be thatched above, and a defence put upon the posts, to prevent the ascent of vermin. If water could be turned to form a running stream, or brook, through the Courts of the Kennel, it would be convenient and healthy for the Dogs; but otherwise, there should be no deficiency of

that most necessary element. The old Huntsmen were great Advocates for one or two spacious Chimneys, in a Kennel, where, in the rigorous season, and after a hard day's Hunt, their wearied Hounds might stretch, clean, and dry themselves for an hour or two, by a good fire, before they were put up for the night.

The outlines of the Kennel have been defined, and its chief divisions and needful conveniences enumerated, leaving however, their arrangement, their juxta-position or desirable separation, to choice and the government of local circumstances. It is in place next, to speak of ECONOMY and MANAGEMENT. The ATTENDANTS upon a considerable Pack of Hounds, consist of the HUNTSMAN and his WHIPPER-IN, and additionally, as circumstances may require, a FEEDER. The first, of course, stands at the Head of his Department, and must be qualified to stand pledged to a general responsibility, in all things relative to it, and from him there can be no appeal, but to the *Lord* or *Proprietor*. It is a place of trust, and of confidence in many material respects, and a Huntsman ought to be of steady and decent character, and not less than thirty years of age, and some years experience in one of the best Schools. So much has already been said on the important topics of *patience* and *coolness* of temper that, I shall only repeat, those virtues, whether hereditary, or acquired by virtue of common sense, are in no character more necessary than in that of the Huntsman. As

to his natural aptitude, in point of the true game shrewdness and quickness, and that peculiar personal quality, so attractive to the domestic Animals, I remind the Reader of my former hints in page 88. He ought to have received sufficient education, to be able to write fairly, to keep common Accounts worthy of inspection, and to indite a letter intelligibly in the common forms. It is a material branch of the Duty, of this Head of the Hunting Department upon an Estate, to keep a regular account of all Outgoings, subject to the inspection and perhaps controul of the *Steward*, with whom periodical settlements are to be made and signed. A regular KENNEL-BOOK of sufficient size, and with divisions conveniently arranged, should also be kept by every Huntsman. In this should appear, a clear account of all the transactions of the Pack, and of the Hunt—such as the Names and Pedigrees of the Hounds—date when littered, purchase or parting with them, their state of health, different qualities, and degrees of goodness, together with all remarkable circumstances which may occur in the Chase. Between the Huntsman, and the chief Hunting Groom, there ought ever to be a good understanding, as between Officers in two Departments closely connected.

The duties of the Kennel are, in a considerable degree, similar to those of the Stable. The Feeder enters at a certain regular stated hour in the morning, according to the season, and his first business, if the morning be fair, is to turn out the Hounds,

which are well and at large, into the open Court, to stretch, empty themselves, and prepare for their breakfast. In the mean time, the weather permitting, all the doors and windows are thrown open, and the sleeping Rooms swept, dried and cleared of all impurity, the beds well shook, the foul straw replaced, and the whole rendered perfectly clean and airy; ventilation being kept up through the day, by the Windows remaining wholly, or in part open, according to the season or weather. It will occur to the Reader that, Hounds must not be turned out, to remain unsheltered in the open air, in bad weather, but into those parts of the Kennel, in which they remain in security, since none of our domesticated Animals are proof against the ill effects of the atmospheric vicissitudes of this Country, to which, indeed, Hounds as well as Horses are peculiarly, although irregularly subject. It is to be understood that, not only the great sleeping Rooms, but that every Room, Court or part of the Kennel, be preserved in a state, comparatively, as neat and clean as those of a Dwelling-House. The walls and ceilings of every room in the Kennel, should receive their due attention, and be kept substantially white washed; and if any predominant offensive scent be noticed by Strangers, it will be removed by an occasional fumigation, which is also comfortable and salubrious to the Hounds.

The Breakfast, already in a state of preparation, must be forthcoming by the time the Kennel is finished, into which the Hounds may afterwards

retire to digest their meals, unless the fineness of the weather render the open air more desirable. It will fully engage two men, to feed between twenty and forty Couple of Hounds, that the Feeder will always, on the occasion, need the assistance of the Huntsman or Whipper-in; and in fact, feeding is a duty of too much importance, not to require the constant and discriminating attention of the Huntsman. The old Huntsmen tell us, they used to feed their Hounds before Sun rising and at Sun set; and in those days, the young Ladies of the family, took their breakfasts of Neats' Tongues, hung Beef, and Bread and Cheese, washed down with good strong Beer, at six. But times have long since changed, and I am not aware of any great use it can be of, in general, at present to disturb a Kennel of Hounds before six o'clock of a summer's morning: at the same time I think that, in summer time particularly, Hounds, in many Kennels are fed too late. A punctual regularity ought to be observed as to the hours of feeding.

The various kinds of FOOD adapted to the use of Sporting Dogs, or any other, have been particularized at page 193. Generically, they consist of Flesh, farinaceous Substances, Roots and Vegetables; and as in human food, a mixture of those, is most salubrious and nourishing to the Dog. The preference assigned to Oat, before Barley Meal, I have observed to be well grounded; but I have a still higher opinion of fine Pollard, mixed in the proportion of one quarter, or one half of the Oat

Meal. Potatoes also, I have used with success, and would advise the annual growth of some of the largest and most mealy sorts, for the use of Hounds. They are, for the most part, fed in the Vacation or Summer Season, without flesh, but it is probable that, no Dog can be possessed of his full native strength and vigour, independently of the substantial nutriment conferred by animal food; and at any rate, all hounds which remain weak and reduced, after the Hunting Season, should be constantly flesh fed, however small the quantity of flesh may be, throughout the following Summer.

Straw, I hold to be necessary for the comfort of Hounds, in the summer season, although perhaps, not in so large a quantity as in Winter.

Reckoning the substantial effect of each, it is not true that Barley meal is even so cheap as the meal of Oats; and it is a saving and convenient plan, to grow Oats of the finest and heaviest kind, which are also the cheapest, expressly for the use of Hounds. New Oats, it is well known, should not be given to Horses, nor new meal to Dogs; thence a year's consumption at least, for the Kennel, should be broken into rather coarse grits, and stowed away in *bins*, firmly trodden down and covered; or in Sugar Hogsheads placed upon stands for a defence against vermin. The old Kennel allowance of Oat-meal, was on the average, one quart each Dog, per day, in addition to the Flesh, Vegetables, and other aids in feeding. The cast iron Cauldron may be proportioned to the number of

Hounds, or two may be necessary. The flesh is cooked and taken up first, when the meal is put into the Soup, and requires nearly an hour's boiling, making when cool, a fine thick jelly, which with the assistance of a midling portion of animal food, forms the strongest nourishment for Hounds. Half a bushel of good Oatmeal, to three Pecks, is sufficient, with flesh, to make up one meal for twenty Couple of Hounds.

Poor Horses purchased for slaughter, and not immediately wanted, should be put into good keeping, which may greatly enhance their value to the Hounds.

The Soup and *Bouilli* being placed in the troughs, at the usual time, it is the Huntsman's particular business, knowing as he ought to do, the state of health, condition and appetite of every individual Dog, to be scrupulously cautious that, each and every one is fairly served, and has his full share. Both himself and Assistant must be furnished with their *Whips*, with which they must keep up the strictest discipline, at no time more necessary to be enforced than during meals. Amongst all Animals the strongest will drive the weak from their meat, the thing to be prevented in the present case, when the greatest attention should be bestowed upon the weakest Hounds, and those which are not hasty or good feeders; such indeed should be fed separately, and the greatest pains taken that their appetites be duly satisfied. Invalid Hounds, when

not too numerous, recover soonest by being suffered to run at large under proper inspection.

The low and beggarly Condition of certain inferior Packs, demonstrate but too plainly the want of intelligence and attention in the Proprietor, and of honesty and diligence in the Huntsman. Nothing is more comfortable to Hounds, in a raw and wintery morning, and more especially that immediately after a hard day's run, than to have their Soup at as high a temperature of heat, as they can receive without injury; but a dangerous extreme of heat must be avoided, and the consequence may be easily guessed, of letting in hungry and contending Dogs, to scalding pottage. Feeding time is that generally chosen, for grounding their Names upon the memories of the young Hounds, and for confirming habits of obedience, the attention of Animals, being particularly awake and lively, when their appetites are keen. Some are called singly, and by name, to their meal. It is a rule of Hunting Discipline that, a Hound being called, he should immediately approach you, and being touched with the handle of your Whip, or Switch, should follow you close. It is another rule, to have a roll-call of all the Hounds, in and about the Kennel, at least several times in a week. So much has been already said, on the dark and and ungrateful subject of CRUELTY in the management of Dogs, that a hint, as mere matter of form, will here suffice. There must be no *indiscriminate*

periodical Whippings of the Hounds in the lump, the pretended necessity for which, is a sure sign of the greatest ignorance, laziness and ill management. One would suppose these Dog-whipping fellows were bred on ship-board under some flogging Martinet of a Captain, or Negro flogger, in a West India *Kennel.* A union of the severest discipline with the highest possible degree of kindness and compassion, will assure the utmost obedience, whether from Man or Beast.

There are yet naturally refractory dispositions, which no discipline can curb at all seasons, and the best Huntsman may find his Hounds disorderly and riotous, on some particular occasion, when there may be need of all the severity he can possibly use. Such accidents may happen in the night, or early in the morning, and the Huntsman or Feeder should sleep within hearing of the Kennel. Quarrels and Combats will necessarily occur among the Hounds, should a proud Bitch be inattentively left among them. Dogs also, not indeed in so great a degree as Swine, are apt to take an antipathy against one in particular, and will fall upon him in a body, as they would upon a Fox, and tear him to pieces. When symptoms of growing hatred against one, appear to manifest themselves in the Kennel, the individual should be timely withdrawn. Bitches also should be withdrawn on the first symptoms of their heat, and it is better at any Season, to keep the young and unentered Dogs separate from the Pack.

The Summer Season is spent in repairing all the losses and damages of the last Campaign. In getting rid of worthless Dogs, and replacing them. In nursing the sick and hurt. In disciplining the young Hounds to be entered next Season, which go out in Couples; and in regularly exercising the Pack abroad, preparatory to the approaching, intended to be a vigorous Campaign. Hounds should be well kept between the Seasons, and prevented from growing fat by sufficient exercise, and receive the benefit of a swim of some length and continuance in a River, once a week, to which if they have to accompany the Horses ten or a dozen miles, it will be beneficial exercise, and help to harden and enseam their flesh, and prove a far better preventive of fat, than certain economical plans of *Starvation*, which never yet answered the proposed end, either with Dog or Horse. *He who would ride and hunt well, must feed both his Horses and Dogs constantly well.* I repeat—MANGE in Hounds is generally the result of a *mangy* management; otherwise, Vegetables in the Summer, boiled in their Victuals, together with plenty of Dog-grass, are a good preventive, and the rest may be effected by an exhibition of *Sulphur* and *Antimony*, during two or three weeks. Hounds given to gorge themselves, will require perhaps two or three *Aloetic* purges, previously to the commencement of the Hunting Season. I have occasionally witnessed such occurrences at a Hunting Establishment, as the whole Summer

being made a season of indolence, drinking and jollity, to the utter neglect of essentials both in the Stable and Kennel. Such charges will, in more senses than one, be placed to the account of the Proprietor. Servants like these, are the ministers of pleasure, and fairly intituled to their share of it; but it is equally fair that, the condition should be a faithful discharge of their duty.

It was a maxim with the old Huntsmen, to feed their Hounds in the Hunting Season, on their days of rest, with the strongest meat; in their phrase—'to breed strength and lust in a Hound.' Their strongest meat consisted of—'horse-flesh newly slain and warm at the feeding, the entrails and garbage of Beasts, lungs only excepted, or the heads, plucks and bowels of Sheep, or generally any Carrion which is not old, nor cold after death.' They entertained a notion, and it prevails with some still, that horse-flesh ought not to be allowed the day before hunting, as the excessive high scent of it may so prevail in their nostrils as to render their sense of smelling obtuse, and interfere with the scent which they are to hunt. I must own, I have never seen the slightest indication of a Hound's nose being affected in that way, nor do I think it possible, especially after the lapse of so many hours; nor am I, by any means, an advocate for light feeding of Hounds, the day before Hunting, more especially after they have worked hard, and in the advance of the Season. I conceive, if Hounds be fed early the previous day, and thence have a long

repose, no indulgence in feeding can be too great for them, since their meat will be perfectly digested, and their bodies sufficiently emptied and lightened, in all probability, long before they have found, and are required to run. Moreover, they may have ten or a dozen miles to travel to cover, after having performed which journey, the light feeding and speedy Hounds, which have eaten nothing for the past sixteen or eighteen hours, appear as if matched to be drawn through a ring. I know well from multiplied observations that, neither Dogs nor Horses can run *fat* or *full.* In either case, the functions of the *diaphragm*, on which continued action depends, are impeded, or in case of great stress, instantaneously suspended, and down drops the Animal; having run, as we should say, until he *burst himself.* But the apprehension of this, has led the Trainers for the Turf and Chase, into another extreme, and another danger at least equal to that, which they have been so solicitous to avoid. They have often brought their Racers to the Starting Post, and their Hounds to Cover, in too weak a state. Hounds which have already worked hard, and which hunt eagerly, supposing they had a journey to cover, could I conceive, contract no possible injury from a light repast, even on the morning of Hunting; of which however, I do not insist on the necessity. The Meat given on the day before Hunting, in the old time, was called *Mang* or sweet-meat, consisting of the usual Oatmeal broth

made thick and enriched with Butter-milk or Whey, Kitchen offal, broken bones, or any thing to be procured of that description.

There can be no better than the old Rules for the treatment of Hounds, on their return from Hunting. It was directed to prepare for them an ample and hot repast, in which if possible, horse flesh, fresh killed, made a considerable part; and to feed them instantly on their arrival. A comfortable bed of sweet fresh straw was an important consideration, previously to their retirement to which, the Hounds, in cold weather, as has been said, were indulged with the privilege of basking before good fires. The next direction was to wash the feet of all the Hounds, in warm butter and beer, Beef broth, or water in which Mallows and Nettles had been boiled soft and tender; every claw being afterwards carefully searched for thorns, stubs or wounds; a business, for which leisure is seldom found, until the next morning, nor are wearied Hounds in a proper condition to admit of it. The Soup ordered for weak and sickly Hounds consisted of Sheeps' heads with the wool on, bruised to pieces, and trotters bruised, boiled with Oatmeal and Pennyroyal, given quite warm. I know nothing of the virtues of Pennyroyal in the case, as little of those of wool, taken into a Dog's stomach; but I am inclined to think that, *onions*, affording the strongest nutriment of all Vegetables, would be a good substitute for both.

We have many princely and magnificent Hunt-

ing Establishments in this Country, at the head of which probably, are to be ranked those of the Duke of Richmond in Sussex, and the Earl of Darlington in Yorkshire. The Duke's Kennel at Goodwood, according to Mr. Daniel, cost nineteen thousand Pounds, being sufficiently extensive to accommodate two Packs of Hounds. The building comprises five Kennels: two, 36 feet by 15—three 30 by 15—and two feeding Rooms 20 by 15; with Stoves to warm the air in Winter. The Huntsmen and Whippers-in, have each a Parlour, Kitchen and Bedroom. We believe however that, the great Establishments cited, are distinguished rather by that grand and extensive scale of convenience, so well becoming the high estate and dignity of their princely Owners, than by that gorgeous and ostentatious magnificence which it was the purpose of the Poet to reprobate—

> Let no Corinthian Pillars prop the Dome,
> A vain expence, on charitable Deeds
> Better dispos'd, to clothe the tatter'd Wretch,
> Who shrinks beneath the Blast, to feed the Poor
> Pinch'd with afflictive Want: For Use not State,
> Gracefully plain, let each Apartment rise.
> O'er all let Cleanliness preside.—

In a great fortune well dispensed, magnificence of expenditure may well join hands, and even cooperate with the most extensive charity. The present writer is no leveller; he entertains no envy or hatred towards the rich and great, but the strongest attachment to the just and good of what-

ever degree; and as an advocate for general right, never overlooks the sacred rights of property.

To provide a Pack of Hounds in the first instance, is a matter of some difficulty, with respect to a choice of the means: nor ought it to be expected, that a capital Pack can be obtained, but from the sedulous exertions and experience of some years. The purchase of such a Pack when the opportunity offers, must necessarily be high. Sir William Lowther some years since, purchased Mr. Noel's Fox Hounds at the price of one thousand Guineas. As a Gentleman devoted to the Sport, cannot afford to lose time, his readiest mode I apprehend, is, having engaged a Huntsman on whom he can depend, to commission him to collect twenty or thirty Couples of Hounds, in lots, as he can find them. Thus a tolerable Pack, the utmost which must be expected, may be formed for the commencement; occasional additions and improvements may be made, and time afforded for breeding and the gradual attainment of that superior excellence, of which the Proprietor ought to be ambitious. The different Species of Hounds and their various appropriations have been already adverted to.

The naming of Hounds would seem to be a matter of some difficulty and consequence, by the long lists of both male and female Appellatives, which we find in Sporting Books. Of the consequence there can be no doubt, since a Huntsman would be truly at fault, with a Pack of Dogs be-

fore him, and without a name to call them by. An old friend of mine, equally a Votary of the Bottle and the Chase, whose mind could endure no fatigue, nor memory any stretching, asked the Parson of the Parish, over the second or third bottle, to furnish him with some names for his Hounds, and his Reverence began with *Carabonluch*, *Newbockentobashofax*, and *Aldebaran!* The combined wits of the Owner of a Pack, his Huntsman and Whipper-in, will surely always be sufficient to invent the names, which may be as pithy as can be imagined, and may lawfully consist of one syllable, but if possible, should never exceed two. Young Hounds should be named soon after they have left the Bitch, and are capable of some little discipline. It is an old Custom to name all those of one litter, with a name commencing with the initial letter of the Dog that got, or the Bitch that bred them.

All young Hounds should be BRANDED in the side, with the initials of their Proprietor's name, as a caution against loss or dispute. From the Bitch they are usually put out to WALK or keep, until old enough to be admitted into the Kennel. Their Ears may be ROUNDED at six months old, in cool weather, that they may not bleed profusely, but not while under the Distemper. It is directed to feed young Hounds *twice* a day, but all Hounds ought to be fed twice a day, to make the most of them. If it be judged worth while to keep thin filleted and ill formed Dogs, from an opinion of their blood or other reason, they may as well be castrated, which

will take something from the trouble of keeping them; the same with respect to Bitches, if a skilful Operator be at hand. But it is remarkable how few are capable of spading Animals with safety and success, notwithstanding the great practice in that operation, on Swine particularly. If the Bitch be not clean cut, she will be although barren, troubled with her periodical heat. A young Bitch may be spayed about a fortnight after her first conception, but probably the safest time is whilst she suckles. Spayed-Bitches, where they do well, are among the best of the Species, firm fleshed and stout runners, and extremely serviceable in a Pack which hunts late in the Season.

It is most truly, common place and pure formal advice, to counsel the young Sportsman to breed from his finest shaped, most sagacious, staunchest and stoutest, that is to say, most lasting Hounds: or to call to him—'ware babblers and trunkmakers (more noise than work) skirters or hedge-creepers, and those with elbows out, and loins pinched in.' He must already have advanced as far as the threshold of the breeding System, where he has learned that *like produces like.* He must recollect however that, there is a generality of exception, as well as of rule, *nothing being more certain than uncertainty*; out of respect to which maxim, he may occasionally break through common rules, in favour of a known and practically excellent animal, male or female. He may also, if he please, exult with Somervile and Beckford—' in our happy

Climate for Sportsmen, where Nature seems, as it were, to give them an exclusive privilege of enjoying this diversion'—which exclusive privilege, I am rather inclined to attribute to our own art and industry, at least as a solid ground of exultation.

The following advice from Mr. Beckford, is truly sound and orthodox, and the best comment upon it, will be to pursue it strictly.

"It is the judicious cross that makes the complete Pack. The faults and imperfections in one breed, may be rectified in another; and if this is properly attended to, I see no reason why the breeding of Hounds may not improve, till improvement can go no farther. If ever you find a cross hit, always pursue it. Never put an old Dog to an old Bitch. Be careful that they are healthy which you breed from, or you are not likely to have a healthy offspring. Should a favourite Dog skirt a little, put him to a thorough line-hunting Bitch, and such a cross may succeed: my objection to breeding from such a Hound is, that as skirting is what most Fox-hounds acquire from practice, you had better not make it natural to them. A very famous Sportsman has told me, that he frequently breeds from brothers and sisters." Mr. Beckford, like a man who merits confidence, speaks with caution of breeding *in and in*, that is from the nearest blood, which he never practised; but what his Cocking Friend told him of the danger of a nearer approach than the third generation—in the style of the Turf, *a nick*, deserves not the smallest attention, these

people being apt, from indolence or defect of *stoutness* in the reflective faculty, to catch hold on a mere casual exception, and erect it into a general rule. Mr. Beckford, full of intelligence on his subject, makes a trite but important observation—'those who breed the greatest number of Hounds, have a right to expect the best Pack.' It is obviously the same upon the Turf, with respect to Colts. A Breeder then, upon a small scale, should endeavour to share in the advantages of those upon the greatest, by sending females to their Stallions. There is another consideration, the best bred Males and those of the highest expectation, will not unfrequently fail, which ought to be a powerful motive to external recourse.

The young Hounds returning finally from their first school, their Walks, and being reconciled to the in-door discipline of the Kennel, and ready to answer to their names, it is time to Couple them, in order to take them abroad for the commencement of their education. Always couple Dog and Bitch together, as far as practicable, and the young which are troublesome or awkward, may at first be coupled with old Hounds. They should not be coupled loosely and carelessly, that the risk may be incurred of a young Dog slipping his collar, and being frightened, straying away. A few may be taken out at first, according to convenience, and taught to follow the Huntsman or his Assistant, on foot; the next step is to accustom them to follow the Horse. Thenceforward, the chief of the in-

structions may be thus specified—*to run in company without skirting or skulking: to be strictly obedient to the Voice of the Huntsman*; to beware of *hunting improper objects: to be staunch to that particular scent on which they are about to be entered, and to run one or two* trail-scents or *trials, for the satisfaction of the Proprietor, as to how they promise to acquit themselves in a real Chase.* Collars with the names of the Owner, should be put upon such Dogs as are suspected of straying.

After several airings, it will be proper to begin to lead the young Fox Hounds amongst those Animals, which it must be ever penal to them to touch, or even notice, and the first to be considered is the SHEEP, afterwards the DEER. A few Dogs may be uncoupled among the Sheep; the Attendants being ready with their Whips, should walk up and down caressing those Dogs which are quiet, and chiding those which notice the sheep, threatening them with the smack of the Whip, and calling out perpetually —'ware Sheep,' not failing to flog those severely, which are inattentive. This practice must be repeated in the most strict and severe manner, at any rate, a number of times, or as often as shall appear to be necessary. It is well known that, some Dogs have a natural hankering after Mutton, which it is extremely difficult to subdue, and I have witnessed shameful instances of the Greyhounds of Persons of estate, worrying and destroying the sheep of poor Farmers, even year after year, the Gentlemens' memories being so treacherous, as to afford them

no recollection of the duty of retribution; or probably, they flattered themselves that, the *fellows* might think they were honoured even in suffering for their Superiors. I once also had the opportunity of observing a marked case, of the complete cure of a young Hound of the largest size and a ferocious disposition, which doubtless being neglected, would have become a desperate and incorrigible Sheep-biter. All attempts to reclaim him satisfactorily, having failed, we at last caught him with some difficulty, and made him fast to a tree, in sight of the flock, when a well qualified fellow gave him such a tremendous flogging to the tune of—'ware Sheep,' that he was as perfectly *scored*, as ever was a loin of Pork for the spit; and in fact so choked with choler and affright, that I thought it full time to call out—enough! We left him fast bound to his meditations, in sight of the Sheep, the whole remainder of the day, bringing him to Kennel at night, a Dog perfectly reclaimed, never afterwards looking at Sheep, but with apparent dread or shyness; and a stout and eager Hound he proved, and afterwards a Stallion of great repute.

It may be received as an undoubted truth that, idleness is the ruin of Hounds whether young or full grown; nor need we stop there, the position applying with equal force to their Attendants; but old age and long services merit the due reward of rest. Discipline must never cease, or be forgotten even in its *minutiæ*. The next contraband or prohibited object to the Fox Hound, is the HARE;

and the lessons must be given to the young Hounds in the Field, as with the Sheep. This will be an easier task, in proportion to the number of Hares, to which the Dogs may be introduced, making the sight common. But the scent of the Hare is most sweet to all Sporting Dogs, and Hare Hounds have no need whatever, of being taught to restrict themselves to that scent. But the young Fox-Hound must be first stooped to a vermin or rank scent, Martin Cat, Badger or Fox, and when once well blooded, he will retain an attachment to the scent ever after, to be strengthened by discipline.

To make a TRAIL-SCENT, a Cat is usually chosen. It should be killed and spread open, and dragged over the land intended for the run. Some choose a bunch of red Herrings. Mr. Beckford quotes an old Sportsman, a Clergyman, who entered his young Hounds first at a Cat, 'which he dragged along the ground for a mile or two.' It is not explained, but I take it for granted the Clerical Sportsman first caused the Cat to be killed, as I have known Miscreants drag a harmless living Cat to death in that way—one more thrust at the accursed and unmanly abomination of hunting to death the domestic Cat, relying on the protection of Man!

An open Country affords a fine opportunity for training and hunting the young Hounds, in the Summer Season. Two or three Couple of the steadiest and best nosed, line-hunting Hounds of

the Pack, should always be present, as their example will go farther in perfecting the young Dogs, than all that can be done by the most pains-taking and skilful Huntsmen. The old Hounds should take this in turn, that particular ones be not worked too much out of Season.

The young Pack should be now entered in that part of the Country, where it is intended they should hunt in the Season, and be blooded to their proper Game, whatever that may be; if the Fox, Cubs must be found for them in the Covers, or bagged ones provided. They should also be inured early, to the strongest and thickest Covers, where the Martin Cat may be found, the scent of which is attractive to Hounds.

This is the time to make the young 'extravagant and erring Hound' feel the smart of correction, and sensible of the value of kindness and encouragement—and to fit him for making an early figure in the field, which shall not disgrace either his blood or his education. This is the time also, to put those aside, of which there appears no hope. At the commencement of the Season, but a few couples at a time, of the young Hounds, should join the Pack.

The STABLES form a very important branch of a Hunting Establishment, for of what consequence can the finest Kennel of Hounds be to a Proprietor, without a Stable of Hunters equal in character, to carry him and his Attendants up to them in the Field? The discipline of the Hunting,

should approach as nearly as is consistent to that of the Racing Stable, in its modern improvement, the most perfect for the comfort and good keeping of the Horse. The LOOSE Stable, in which a horse can roll and stretch his pained and wearied limbs, and cool his tense and inflamed sinews, is the first and noblest of all in-door remedies. A Gentleman in Lancashire, and one or two others, put in practice the idea of Mr. Lawrence, to make the Stalls in a Stable more capacious than usual, with a gate or bar at the entrance, that each might become a loose Stable when required; or that the Horse, a good practice, might always stand loose. The old plan of a *Hay Chamber* to be abolished, that sink of all kind of impurities, the dung and urine of Cats, cobwebs, dust and dirt, and where so much of the fragrance and salubrious juices of the Hay are evaporated and lost to the Horse. The Hay to remain in Stack, and perhaps only a day's provision to be allowed in the Stable, a proper receptacle being there provided. The old fashioned and generally dirt-cased *Rack* and *Manger* to be dispensed with, and a *Drawer* substituted, to be kept clean washed occasionally, and put up when not in use. The Horse to be fed with his head *low*, as is his natural custom when feeding abroad. How these changes in the long established customs of the Stable, may accord with general convenience or opinion, I know not; I can only say that I long since adopted them fully in my own small concerns, with the utmost satisfaction; and for any

thing farther on the subject, I refer to the above Author's *Treatise on Horses*, and his *History of the Race Horse*. It is useful to have a lad in the Hunting Stables, who has been accustomed to the management of Racers.

Our customs, indeed the nature of the case, lead to a description of the Hunting Horse, in the first instance, by his *blood*. I have known many Farmers' Hunters, entirely as can now be found, of the common breed, which being good in nature and active, have acquitted themselves well in the field, particularly in heavy, inclosed Countries, where speed cannot be exerted, and where the Chase is not too long. Such Cattle prudently ridden, and due advantage been taken of a knowledge of the Country, may make a shift; but when they come to the bursts of speed of superior Horses, or to runs of considerable length, Competitors who wish to hear news of them, may apply at the lost and found Office, or make enquiry after Strays. A Hunter for any Country, ought to be at least, three parts bred, but perhaps seven eighths is preferable, or indeed the standard, as all things considered better adapted to Hunting, than the thorough bred Race Horse. Such a Horse may have enough, both of the Racer's speed and stoutness, for any purpose in the Field, without some of his peculiar defects; namely, a too long stride, too great length of leg, and tenderness of feet. The Hunter should be a short legged, at least not a leggy Horse, with the chief of the *Hackney* perfec-

tions. Strong jointed, and with wide substantial reins or fillets, he should go well clear of all his legs, not knocking or cutting a hair. He should be temperate, yet not sluggish, or in want of too much driving, and should have a good *snafle bridle* mouth; but by no means so tender and *a la militaire*, as to make his head vibrate like the pendulum of a clock, at every motion of the Rider's hand. If he have a pleasant Canter, as well as a good steady hunting Stroke, it is often a great convenience both to the Rider and himself. All hot and colicky and weasel-carcased Horses are, by natural privilege, excused from the fatigues of the Chase, although the highest and safest of flying leapers. Imagine a half-cracked young fellow, eaten up with the love of hunting, and full of tongue, mounted upon a curvetting and fiery Steed. Such I have seen, with a mixture of diversion and dismay. 'Ware Hounds!—'ware Hunters! 'ware your turn at the next Fence!

In a light and open Country, and especially where it is the prevailing taste to ride thorough bred Horses, a Gentleman would no doubt, desire to conform, and indeed would not choose to be left behind by his friends. The highest weight may be suited with this kind of Horse, even for the strongest Country, because bred Horses are capable of quick motion with heavier weights in proportion, than any inferior breed. The difficulty however is obviously much greater, to suit a heavy than light weight, and a thorough bred Racer, master of

twenty stone up to any Hounds, is intrinsically worth a very large sum. The choice of a bred Hunter, must be among those which are of the shortest and most compact form, with as much bone under the knee as can be obtained, and as good feet. Nothing can make a poorer figure in running over deep earths, than a loose and leggy Racer, sleeping upon a stride as long as to-day and to-morrow, knocking together and battering his four legs, and making a fifth of his Rider's hand. Every Horse which has been in training as a Racer, should be set a little on his haunches, and his mouth receive a moderate share of the discipline of the Riding Horse, previously to his being used either as a Hunter or Hackney.

A Hunter should be of a commanding size, from fifteen hands one inch high, to fifteen three, and always rather above than, in the least degree, unequal to the weight he has to carry. No four year old Horse should be severely hunted, or indeed any otherwise than, by way of exercise and training. Even at five years old, the first season, a Horse should be hunted with moderation. With respect to the PURCHASE of a Hunter, those Gentlemen who trust entirely to their Grooms, would do well, first of all, to find an *honest* Groom. The most convenient method in the commencement of an Establishment, to address inexperienced Readers, is to purchase seasoned and steady Hunters, continuing afterwards as occasion offers, to select well

shaped and promising four year olds, to be put into training in due time, as successors to the former.

A few lines on TRAINING the Hunter. A first object is to make him a safe and good STANDING LEAPER, for most Horses will naturally take flying leaps when put to it, at least over a common fence. And much also depends on the disposition of the Horse, for among those regularly and equally trained, some will excel in standing, others as flying leapers, he being indeed a rare Hunter, who is equally excellent at both. The well known method of the furzed LEAPING BAR, disciplines the Horse to this accomplishment, but his lessons should not be fatiguing, too often repeated, or severe. A steady standing leaper should set the example to the young Horse; and if one Groom has more *patience* and good humour than another, he is the man to attend a Horse at the leaping bar. The Horse should not be alarmed or frightened, but the Groom should generally touch his haunches with the whip, at his passing the bar, in order to make him clear his hinder legs, with the address used by the Cow, one of the best of standing leapers. It is most safe never to raise the bar very high, before a young Horse; very high leaping being best acquired afterwards and elsewhere. The Irish Hunters, it is well known, beat all the World at high leaping.

The Hunter should have two or three months TRAINING, of walking and galloping exercise, to

prepare him for the labours of the approaching Season. As many Aloetic PURGES, a week between each, should, in like manner, prepare him to take his exercise; for after all that has been said against this practice, by inexperienced Theorists, it has generally proved unsafe and inefficient to put Horses upon speedy action, previously to unlading their intestines and cooling their blood, which is most expeditiously and certainly effected by purgation. A young Horse first put into training, may perhaps require most work; with respect to old Hunters, taken from the Spring Grass, which they should never fail to enjoy, and more especially if their legs have become the worse for wear, very little training will suffice for them, and that to consist more of walking than galloping exercise. A light sheet is sufficient CLOTHING for the Hunter, and the chief of his gallops, which never need exceed a good hunting rate, should be given in the cool of the morning, with which a gentle canter after water in the afternoon, will be sufficient. Should a hardy constitutioned Horse get full flesh enough, under mild discipline like this, it will yet be firm; and if on a sharp rally now and then, to the length of two miles, *his bellows blow strongly and freely*, it may be depended upon, the surplus of flesh he appears to carry, will be any thing to him, rather than a burden in the Field.

I believe I have adverted to most of the leading topics on the present Subject, and shall close it with one or two remarks and an Anecdote, incul-

cating a moral lesson, which my heart, too often harrowed by the sufferings of the Horse, fervently wishes, could become of general influence. CORDIAL BALLS are no doubt occasionally useful, but many Grooms are apt to make a too free use of them, heating the Horses, injuring their appetites and loosening their bodies too much. Malt Mashes warm, are very restorative after a Horse has had a hard run. I think no debilitating medicinal articles should be administered to Horses in a state of exhaustion from fatigue; which I mention because I have seen in some Book, a draught ordered in such a case, in which there was a preposterous mixture of *laudanum* and *Glauber's Salt.* I have not much faith in the various *stoppings* used to Horses feet, having always trusted to the daily use of water, warm and cold, as each chanced to be indicated; and to the Horse standing upon good clean, cool straw, *a l' Anglaise*, not upon naked and benumbing stones, out of deference to any authority whatsoever.

"It was the uniform practice of Charles Duke of Calabria, to sit in Counsel at Naples, with his Ministers and others, on certain days, to hear all complaints.—That no persons, however mean in their appearance, should be refused admittance, from a bell hung in the Council Chamber, a wire was run across the Court, and to the extreme entrance, which being pulled, always gave the Duke an opportunity of knowing that some person had entered, or applied for admission. It so happened,

that a Baron of the name of *Capaceja*, being tired of an old Horse, worn out in his service, ordered the Animal to be turned out of the Stable, and which straying near the Court, and accidentally rubbing himself against the wall, moved the bell-wire. As the ringing of the bell was not unobserved by the Duke, and as no person entered according to his expectation, he became particular in his enquiries, and when some of his attendants, with a smile upon their countenances, informed him that it was only *an old Horse*, he insisted upon knowing its Owner. Being informed that it had belonged to Baron *Capaceja*, and had been turned at large, the Baron was sent for: "You laugh," said the Duke to some of his Council, "but you should know that justice extends to the brute creation." The Baron, however, acknowledged the Horse had made several campaigns with him, but being now unserviceable, he had done what he was accused of. "Very well," said the Duke; "but since you have been in years and past service, has the pension that my father allowed you been withheld?"—"No, Sire, it has been honourably and punctually paid." "Well then," said the Duke, "if you wish to retain your pension, and the character of a brave and generous man, go and provide for your horse, in the same manner as the State has provided for you."

"Very different from the conduct of Baron *Capaceja*, was that of the gallant Hanoverian General *Von Hodenburgh*, who died upon his own Estate about the year 1772: he had a Horse upon which

he rode in the war of succession, from 1742 to 1748; even in 1770 this old Horse was alive and useful: but after his 34th year, his strength failed completely. The General notwithstanding, had him provided for with greater care than ever; and that no neglect should take place, visited the stable almost every day of his life. It is needless to add, that when death finally separated the animal and his old master, it was not without real regret on the part of the General, with whom he had seen no small degree of service." It is a melancholy and revolting truth, which must not be piously concealed—in England, it is not generally acknowledged, or even perceived that, *justice extends to the brute creation.*

Engraved by J. Greig from a Painting by L. Clennell.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones Paternoster Row Nov. 1. 1817.

THE HARE.

HARE HUNTING.

O Happy! if ye knew your happy State,
Ye Rangers of the Fields; whom Nature boon
Chears with her Smiles, and ev'ry Element
Conspires to bliss. What, if no Heroes frown
From marble Pedestals; nor Raphael's Works,
Nor lively Titian's Tints, adorn our Walls?
Yet these the meanest of us may behold;
And at another's Cost, may feast at Will
Our wond'ring Eyes; what can the Owner more?
But vain, alas! is Wealth, not graced with Pow'r.
The flow'ry Landskip, and the gilden Dome,
And Vista's op'ning to the Wearied Eye,
Thro' all his wide Domain; the planted Grove,
The shrubby Wilderness, with its gay Choir
Of warbling Birds, cant't lull to soft Repose
Th' ambitious Wretch, whose discontented Soul
Is harrow'd Day and Night; he mourns, he pines,
Until his Prince's Favour makes him great.
See there he comes, th' exalted Idol comes!
The Circle's form'd, and all his fawning Slaves
Devoutly bow to Earth; from every Mouth

The nauseous flattery flows, which he returns
With Promises, that die as soon as born.
Vile Intercourse! where Virtue has no Place,
Frown but the monarch; all his Glories fade;
He mingles with the Throng, outcast, undone,
The Pajeant of a Day; without one Friend
To sooth his tortur'd Mind; all, all are fled.
For tho' they bask'd in his Meridian Ray,
The Insects vanish, as his Beams decline.

S. MERVILE.

Happy indeed! may we say with the Poet, are the Rangers and Proprietors of the Fields, who, content with the solid, and vivifying enjoyments afforded by Nature, and inspired by the honest pride of their own virtuous independence, neither oppress, nor rob their fellow men of enjoyments common to all; nor join in the Pack of corrupted Tools, to monopolize a Nation's Wealth, and pauperize the great Majority, by which it was raised; nor meanly jealous of the liberties of other Nations, for we are all Brethren and equally interested in the sacred cause of freedom, join in crafty, base and tyrannical Conspiracies for their suppression. An industrious care and improvement of their Estates, and the liberal protection of their Tenantry, are the proper and profitable profession of our Lords of the Soil; their pleasures, their unbounded pleasures —the Sports of the Field—the joys of the Chase! alternating with the equal delights of the great and gay METROPOLIS, that centre of all that is comfortable and delightful to human existence, and attractive of human desires; and with the pursuit of

those Studies which adorn, enlighten, and humanize the Man, and qualify him essentially and honestly to serve, not to betray and defraud his Country.

We have stated the grounds of objection to the Chase of the *Hare*, and of all the timid Animals, and also its inferiority, in the view of Sport, to the Chase of the Fox, in the estimation of many staunch Sportsmen; but impartiality demands of us the truth that many have recanted, and even Mr. Beckford himself, our Apostle of the Chase, as he modestly and impartially sets forth in his text. But what can we urge against Coursing the Hare, when that friend of the animal creation, the humane and kind hearted SIR CHARLES BUNBURY, has pursued it with delight, through more than half an age?

Hunting the Hare, is a Sport of high antiquity, and the ancient practice with Nets and Hounds, may be found in the eloquent and classic pages of *Xenophon*, who wrote three centuries and half anterior to the Christian Era. Coursing with *Greyhounds*, takes precedence in this Country, of Hare Hunting, and is probably as old as when Britain was under the dominion of the Romans. *Arrian* describes it as first in use among the Gauls; and as Mr. Daniel observes, it is remarkable that, after the lapse of so many centuries, the mode of *beating* for a Hare, in Coursing, should be now, exactly what it then was. The Company were drawn up in a straight rank, either Horse or Foot-men, and proceeded at certain distances from each other, in

a direct line to a given point, and wheeling round, that they might not go over precisely the same track, they beat the ground regularly back again. A person who directed the Sport, also gave orders to let slip the Dogs which were required, in the proper direction.

The GREYHOUND was an Animal of high consideration and value, with our Monarchs of the Norman Race, and in a particular manner, a favourite with the high bred Ladies of those times; and again to avail myself of the collecting industry of my respectable Countryman, Mr. Daniel, we find the following curious Anecdote. The Wife of Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, when a Prisoner to Edward 1st, A.D. 1304, had three Men and three Women Servants, three *Greyhounds*, Plenty of Game and Fish, and the fairest House in the Manor. She had beside, the following convenient attendant allowed her—a Foot-boy, sober and not *riotous*, to make her bed.

In ancient Times, not only the Hare, but the Deer and Fox were coursed by the favourite Greyhound; and it is probable that, there was formerly a large and ferocious Variety of this Hound, since wild Boars and Beasts of Prey were hunted by them. Coursing the Deer with Greyhounds, was a favourite and Courtly Diversion in the Reigns of Elizabeth and James, but has long since been relinquished, excepting so far as to make use of Greyhounds in running down in a Pack, the supernumerary Fawns of the Fallow Deer. Within

the last half Century, we have arrived at great perfection in improving the symmetry, beauty, and powers of speed, in the Greyhound, the modern objects: the grounds of this perfection are well illustrated by *Osmer*, who was a Man of some scientific pretension, and a veterinary Anatomist, as well as a thoroughly practical Sportsman. He observes in the third Edition of his Book on Horses, now become scarce—

" Though many sorts of Dogs are as long as the Greyhound, every eye may see that one will excel the other, and that from the curves, and circles, which one describes in his shape, and which the other has in a less degree.

" Fine Greyhounds have, like fine Horses, a general proportion, a certain elegance of parts, length, and are full of muscles, and their hocks are let down to the ground behind, and stand from them, and to supply the want of a long pastern, their feet or toes are made longer than any other Dog's that can be named.

" It is this very formation so obvious in a Greyhound, and in some Horses, that in part produces the effect of speed; and the reason why it is not so manifest to all men in both species, is, because the degrees of this formation do not come so near together in Dogs, as in Horses, that of the Greyhound far excelling all others.

" Now the fine Greyhound is remarkably broad and expanded in the muscles of his thighs; this I call a perfection—and so I think it is in Horses,

though it be but seldom seen. This the Sportsmen esteem a fault, and what moves my laughter, they call it a coach quarter—so little likelihood is there of any agreement amongst mankind about the proper formation of a Race Horse, that they have not so much as agreed upon the names, whereby to distinguish the different parts thereof, even though the muscular expansions ought to be very different in these parts, when we require a perfect Horse of any sort.

" HARES, continues the Author, are made in the same manner, and they can describe a greater circle, and acquire more ground at one stroke than any Animal that I know of, in the whole world, of their size and length, and that because their quarters are so long, their thighs are so much let down, and the lower part of their hinder legs, are placed as it were, under them; and to answer the purpose of a long pastern, their toes are made very long. From these causes I am inclined to think, her springs of action are in part derived—add to this, the blade-bone of no Animal runs away into her back, with so much declivity as a Hare's; and this I think, enables her to point forward—Again, mark the length from her elbow to the knee, and the short space there is betwixt that and the next joint; by this length of the arm, and the muscles thereof, she can farther extend her fore parts—so it is in a Greyhound, though not, I think, in so many degrees; and this formation in degree, so far appertains to the Horse, that he cannot be

called perfect without it, let him be ever so well constituted in all other respects. But the degree of shortness in this part of the Horse, is better considered by the proportion it bears to his other parts, than by any general rule that can be laid down.

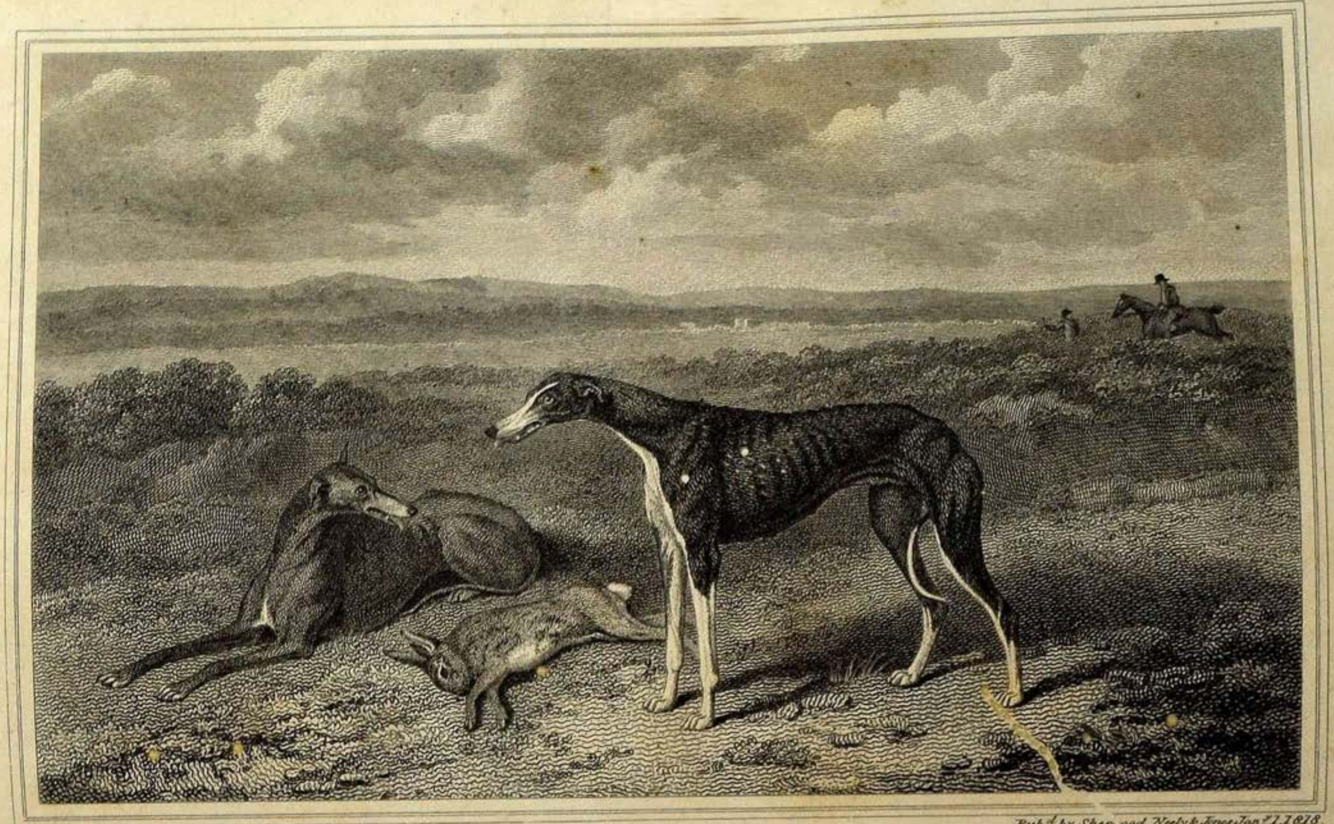
"Now it is well known, that the Hare can strike nearly as far at a stroke as the Greyhound Dog, which is much longer;—tell me then, are her motions performed by the peculiar formation of the acting parts, and the strength and elegance of her muscles, or by any innate quality or unknown virtue; or whether from a similarity in these points found in all animals that are particularly endowed with speed, there may not be some reason to suppose, that the cause of it is the same in each?"

Osmer, a whimsical Genius, had entangled himself in a mere dispute of words, on which perhaps a few more words may be bestowed in treating on the Turf.

Great care, in proportion to their presumed great value, was anciently bestowed in the choice, and on the breeding, feeding and training the Greyhound. The lightest Whelps, and those which ran to length and bone, were most esteemed, as probable to turn out the most speedy; and generally the Bitch was supposed to possess from nature, the greatest speed, an idea which still prevails. From twelve to eighteen months, was the age at which the young Greyhound was entered to his Game. Twelve, and occasionally with Bitches, ten months

are the present periods, but it is our fashion to anticipate in all things, the consequence of a state of high civilization; and we often pay for it; for example, in breaking down young Greyhounds and Racers by premature labour. The fashionable colours for these Dogs, are black and blue, or the mixture of these. The Greyhound does not attain his full size and strength before two years of age, until which, by consequence, he is unable, with safety, to undergo often repeated hard running. According to the old rule, and I believe the new, 'a fine skin with soft, thin hair,' are deemed characters of the highest blood in a Greyhound; but I have known many rough and wiry haired Dogs of this Species, chiefly brinded, as useful in the Field, and as certain Hare killers take the Season through, as those of far higher reputation. It is an old notion that, in Greyhounds, excellence is bred from the Bitch, a fact which I have not ascertained, having observed the stock of *crack* Bitches, as well as Dogs, to fail. Doubtless the breeding of this species of Animals, is subject to the same law which is seen to govern others—*like will produce like*, in its mutual relation to both sexes.

The abstract SPEED of the Greyhound, must be superior to that of the Race Horse, and of the Hare to that of the Greyhound; that is to say, *proportionally*, considering the inferior size and extent of reach, in the smaller Animals. Several opportunities have occurred of a trial between the Greyhound and Race Horse. In December 1800, a



Engraved by Jas. Webb, from a Painting by J. Barrenger.

Pub.d by Sherwood, Neely & Jones Jan.y 1, 1818.

MYRTLE & YOUNG BESS,

Two celebrated Grey Hounds the Property of Wm. Moffat Esqr. of Mortlake.

Mare having been matched to run over Doncaster Race Course for one hundred Guineas, started alone; and having galloped about a mile, a Greyhound Bitch joined her, and ran with her the other three miles, head to head, the Jockey, as it was understood, really making it a race, and the Mare shewing the same emulation as she would have demonstrated towards a racing Antagonist of her own Species. At the Distance Post, five to four were betted on the Bitch; when they reached the Stand it was even betting. The Mare won by a head.

Many instances have occurred of real racing Courses of the Hare, by Greyhounds in an open Country, to the length of five or half a dozen miles, in which the Hare has been fairly run to death, and the Dogs to a stand still; the Horses, particularly the common bred ones, being more distressed for the short time, than in a Chase with Hounds, and even most of the Field knocked up. Neither the Greyhound nor Hare, it may be observed, are so stout, in the Turf phrase *lasting*, as the Horse, the Hound, the Fox, and the Deer, and I believe, it may be added, the Wolf. Of the two former, speed is the play. Charles I. indubitably intended by nature for an honest man, but ruined by a fanatical and despotic education, was said during his troubles, to have described the Greyhound as endowed with all the good nature of the Spaniel without his fawning. Craving the old King's pardon, I have found a number of Greyhounds,

however good natured, with cursed crabbed tempers, particularly when driven from the fire side, and not a little snappish and dangerous to Children.

We talk of the difference between Greyhounds bred in a level and a hilly part of the Country, upon arable and heathy districts; but Dogs equally strong and well bred, will run equally well in any Country, after they shall have been accustomed to it. The utility of training the Greyhound in the racing style, as is done for Matches and great Meetings, is disputed on the ground that, it takes off the edge of his speed, whilst it encourages stoutness in him, the thing not so much in request. I am well aware, there is some reason in this argument, and am convinced that I have seen Greyhounds exert the utmost possible degree of speed that Nature had allowed them, running well up to their foot beside, with the common, moderate training; that is to say, being taken out two or three times a week, and being well kept. Two or three purges before training, or coursing in after Seasons, are measures which should not be neglected.

The Greyhounds of this Country, a species so favoured, have been doubtless high bred, and excellent, during many Centuries. Of modern Improvers, the late Lord Orford of eccentric memory, stands at the head: well indeed might his Lordship breed the best, without any recourse to the fanciful choice of Bull-Dog blood, from the vast number he kept and tried, amounting sometimes to fifty brace; a number not approached by any

other Englishman of modern times. Since his time, we have had and have still, many eminent Coursers and Keepers of these Hounds, some of them possessing the most successful at winning Prizes. Amongst these Gentlemen, we may distinguish MAJOR TOPHAM, of Wold Cottage, Yorkshire—COLONEL THORNTON—MR. SWINFEN—the Rev. Sir HENRY BATE DUDLEY—The Rev. NICHOLAS CORSELLIS—Mr. MOFFAT, of MORTLAKE, SURREY, the Proprietor of MYRTLE and SNAP, of which we have given correct Portraits, with whom many others of high reputation might be named. The celebrated Snowball, the property of Major Topham, seems to have been the *Eclipse* of Greyhounds, beating the whole Country, a conqueror upon all soils, equally speedy and stout; he was however beaten by a full Brother, Major, and also by his Aunt, yellow *Czarina*. From this blood has sprung our best stock of the Species. Norfolk and the Wolds of Yorkshire within the period adverted to, have produced the most famous Greyhounds; not that those parts of the Country have any exclusive pretension, since Dogs equally high bred and useful, are to be found in various other Counties; in proof of which, a Greyhound was sold sixteen or seventeen years since, at Carlisle, for one hundred and fifty pounds. In respect to delicacy and beauty, it is probable that, *Venus*, of the blood of Snowball, has never been excelled. Assuredly she was not named at random.

Our great COURSING MEETING and Matches

prove the modern attachment to the old GAZE-HOUND or Greyhound. The principal of these are held annually at Newmarket, Swaffham in Norfolk, and Flixton in Yorkshire; and are conducted according to Rules grounded on those so celebrated of former times, and which, in both the ancient and modern forms, have been so repeatedly published. These great Meetings not only promote improvement and preserve it, in the breed of Dogs, but in an eminent and pleasing degree, encourage sporting Society; nevertheless a Sportsman attached to Coursing, will generally experience greater enjoyment at home and in his own Coursing Circle, over his own and the neighbouring Grounds, than in the bustle of a great Meeting of three or four Hundred Horsemen, too many of them running one against another, and over the Dogs.

> After Hunting all day, our toils to requite,
> A delicate feast we prepare,
> And BACCHUS and VENUS we freely invite
> To be at the death of the Hare. SONG 1771.

The HARE during her first year is a *leveret*, afterwards a Hare; the Buck is often called a Jack Hare, particularly if large. The influence of custom in language, or the *norma loquendi*, is remarkable as it relates to this Animal, which has been styled exclusively feminine, from the highest antiquity; the Hebrews, if my authority be correct, naming the Hare *Arnebeth*, which is of the feminine gender. No appellation could be more appro-

priate to this Animal, than that bestowed by the Latins—*lepus, quasi levis-pes*, light-foot. How the Scholiasts of Gloucestershire have settled this learned affair, I have not sufficient information to state, having neither the County Histories nor Board Survey before me—but in that County it seems, by *custom*, as we were wont to say at School, every thing is *he*, excepting a Tom Cat, which is invariably called *she*.

Our *Varieties* of the Hare, arise from difference in the nature and condition of the soil on which they are bred. Thus we have *Field, Enclosure*, and *Woodland* Hares—*Hill* and *Down* Hares, and *Marsh* Hares. Those accustomed to run over Hills, and through an extent of Country, no doubt, generally run longest, and shew the greatest sport; and the large Hares of the Marsh and Fen, will sometimes shew as great speed, and run as long and severe a Chase as any. An old Author tells us of another Variety, not indeed very common, of *Vagrant or Gipsey* Hares, which have no settled places of residence, but live at discretion, and with equal indifference to all places; at one time, seated in the Enclosures, Hedge Row, Brake or strong Covert; at another, in the open Common or Field—now rambling by night, through the Barn Yard, intrepid, fearless of the gaunt and growling Mastiff, traversing the Orchard and Garden, in defiance of Steel-traps and Spring Guns, or exploring the dangerous Pond-Head, without dread of the roaring waters: suddenly, as some hidden cause

shall direct, changing, to regale on virgin grass, tender clover, or young turnips; then *fondering* to bark, or browsing the budding Twig. If any Gentleman should have an *assortment* of this Variety of the Hare, *of these old Witches* upon his Manors, I should be his very humble Servant for a Day's Sport.

The Hare will intercopulate and breed with the Rabbit, not producing Mules or barren Animals, but such as will continue *ad infinitum*, the mixed breed. I have not witnessed the fact of intercopulation, but I have seen considerable numbers of the stock, which from their size, colour, and form, left no doubt in my mind, as to such Rabbits having been produced from a cross of the Hare. The colour and flavour of the flesh likewise were an additional indication. Also white, very light grey, and black Hares, one of the latter colour very recently, are occasionally found; such colours not improbably originating in an accidental cross with the Rabbit. Both the Hare and Rabbit *leap*, instead of walking, in their slowest pace. The Hare does sometimes, but seldom, quit her *form* by daylight, ranging by night for food, and returning through the same Meuses or Paths. She is also extremely attached to the place where bred, and where she makes her seat, and with little of that subtlety which she shews in the Course, has often been found on the very form, from which she had been chased but the day before, to the greatest distress, and but with a hair-breadth escape for her life. In this peculia-

rity lies a great advantage to her enemies; and Coursing, in an inclosed Country, is often little else than running small circles. Eight or nine pounds weight is a large Hare with us; but in the Isle of Man, it is said, they reach twelve pounds. I have once or twice had a Hare of nearly that weight. The mischief done by Hares to the bark of young Trees, and to young flowering Shrubs, is often severely felt, and they generally lie heavy on *Rutabage and Mangel Wurzel.* With respect to Bark, perhaps the loss arises as much from the indolence of Country People, as any other cause, since cart-grease, or tar and grease mixed, will prevent either Hare or Rabbit from approaching the Tree. As we said of the Partridge and Pheasant, no apprehension need be entertained of a scarcity of Hares, however great the demand, from their naturally overflowing fecundity. It is recorded that, a Brace of Hares, the Doe being pregnant when shut up, were inclosed in a large walled Garden, and proper plants supplied for their sustenance. At the expiration of twelve months, the Garden was examined and the produce was fifty seven Hares, including the original parents. A Suffolk Gentleman was obliged to destroy his Hares near a new Plantation, and the number of the known victims, was five hundred and forty one brace. In December 1804, Lord Craven, in the course of a few days, killed in Ashdown Park, eight hundred brace; yet no doubt but my Lord Somerville now finds plenty of Hares there.

The Hare lives seven or eight, some individuals twelve, and probably to fifteen or sixteen years of age. Their age is best discovered by the toughness of the under jaw-bone, which being tender and easily broken, determines the Animal to be young. The Carcase will be stiff, and the flesh of a pale colour, when the Hare has not been long killed; if it be loose and the flesh assuming a black hue, it is stale. The flesh of the Hare will be sometimes of light colour, *short*, soft and unsavoury, tasting rather like a white meat; two or three Oysters boiled in the gravy will help the flavour. Pliny, although somewhat dubiously, teaches that, the flesh of the Hare causes sleep, and that those who eat it, look fair, lovely and gracious, for a week thereafter; another specimen of the rationality of ancient Writers: and they who worm their Dogs to prevent madness, may also feed their Girls and Boys on Hare's flesh, in order to procure them sleep, beauty, loveliness and grace.

In fair Coursing, a brace of Greyhounds only, should be slipped to a Hare, which besides, is intituled to some distance as law. Stout running Hares have however often baffled, and finally escaped a leash of the best Dogs in a Country. The well known first maxim in Coursing is, after the Hare is found, for the Director of the Sport so to dispose of his forces, as to baffle her attempts to turn, and compel her to a straight Course, that as long a run and view as possible may be obtained. We have many examples of the ardour of pursuit in

Engraved by J. Scott from a Painting by J. Barenger.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Oct. 1. 1817.

COURSING.

the Greyhound, which the risk of existence could not extinguish. A Hare was coursed in Shropshire, by a leash of Greyhounds; one of the Dogs chopped her, but died with the Hare in his mouth, which made her escape. The other two Dogs, had fallen completely blown, and were to all appearance dead, but were recovered by instant bleeding and proper treatment. But what equals at least, the severity of this Course in the wonderful—the same Hare, identified by having lost half her scut, which remained in the mouth of the dead Greyhound, was afterwards killed and found to be of a pure white, which colour was attributed to the excessive fright she had undergone in the first Course.

In the choice of a Pack of Dogs for HARE HUNTING, there seems a kind of debate between our Sporting Writers, for which I can scarcely discover the need. It can matter little what kind of Hounds they be; supposing them well bred and good, suitable to the Country in which they are to hunt, and that their Music be pleasing. We read of Harriers two and twenty inches high, and of Beagle Harriers one of which a man may carry in his glove; and find they hunt well and kill at last. Considering that Hares often outstrip the speed of the Greyhound, it might be supposed a Hare Hound could not be too speedy. But Mr. Beckford supposes the small Fox Beagle too speedy for the Hare, and the *large* Harrier too slow; the former beside, is said to be too dashing and lively for the Hare Hunt, in which *mum, silence and cir-*

cumspection should be the Order of the Day. That Gentleman, in consequence of such opinion, bred a good Pack of Harriers, from a mixture of both; and such probably, was the Hallenbury Pack in Essex, and that of Mr. Potter in the Isle of Ely, of both which Mr. Daniel speaks so highly for an open Country; he however recommends the Dwarf Fox Hound for an inclosed Country, where activity is necessary to force the Hare from her Foil.

To preserve Hare Hounds in their perfection, they must be restricted entirely to their own Quarry or Game. To run them at Fox, *crazes* and spoils them, so essentially different are the two Chases. I have yet heard of an instance of a very considerable Pack hunting Fox, Deer, and Hare, alternately through the Season, with great *eclât;* but infinite pains were taken, and the Pack *seasoned* to this mixed Chase, with as much regularity of discipline, as a single Pack is to one kind of Game. It is of great service to Harriers, to trail the Hare to her form early in the morning, shewing also their goodness, and enabling the Huntsman to distinguish those which have the most *tender* noses: which common sporting Phrase, it is remarkable, has held its ground during at least two centuries, since *Michael Baret*, the Contemporary of Markham, in his *Hipponomie or Vineyard of Horsemanship*, speaks of the tender noses of Hounds, meaning the acute sensibility of their olfactory nerves. *Markham*, also uses the phrase

temperature of heat, a terminologic usage perhaps to the full as rational, as that of temperature itself for heat, adopted in the Medical and Chemical Schools within the last twenty years.

The *Squire* who greatly preferred Hare Hunting to every other Chase, had a very good opinion of the Barometer. He observes—"it must be confessed that this ingenious Machine is of great use to the observant Huntsman; and when he rises in a Morning, and finds the air moist and temperate, the Quicksilver in his Glass moderately high, or gently convex, he has a fair Invitation for his Exercise. I know it is the custom with our juvenile Sportsmen to fix the Time, two or three days before hand to meet a Friend, or to hunt in such or such a Quarter. But appointed Matches of this kind are my aversion and abhorrence: He who will enjoy the Pleasures of the Chase must ask leave of the Heavens. Hunting is a Trade that is not to be forced; nor can the best Cry that ever was coupled make any thing of it, unless the Air be in Tune. The Earth also hath no small influence on this delicious Pastime; for though it sometimes happens, according to the Observations above, that the scent is floating, so that you may run down a Hare through Water and Mire, especially if you keep pretty close after her, without the Trouble of stooping, yet at such a Season, the first fault is the loss of your Game; the perspirations of her body being wafted over head, by the Gravity of the air, and those of the Feet being left on

Elements which absorb and confound them—which last Case very often happens at the going off of a Frost, the Mercury then commonly falling, and by consequence the scent sinking to the Ground."

I leave it to the scientific, to determine on the correctness of our learned Sportsman's idea—of scent being wafted over head by the gravity of the air. With respect to being so scrupulously nice and squeamish about 'a delicate scent lying Morn,' it may be observed that, a good Cry of Finders and Hounds, will generally make sport, and keep the ball up too, where Hares are to be found. Two legged Hare-finders may sometimes, and in some places be necessary; but finding by the noses of the Dogs, is or ought to be, a considerable part of the Sport of Hare Hunting and also of Coursing. Hares are certainly so far Witches, as to be endowed with a fore-knowledge of change in the Weather, seating themselves accordingly, and always seeking shelter. Their forms in inclosed lands, are generally near, or under the lee of the Fence, unless the other parts of the Field afford Covert. It seldom answers to beat for them in the naked Field. Hares are so fond of a comfortable form, that they will sit in such, if made for them. The colour of the Hare favours very much her concealment, and Persons unaccustomed to the Field, may pass Hares upon their forms, so that their Clothes shall almost brush them, yet shall they neither see, nor put up the Animal. There is an instinctive subtlety in the Hare, which tells her that her safety may be

Engraved by J. Scott from a Painting by J. Barrenger.

Publish'd by Sherwood, Neely, & Jones Paternoster Row Dec. 1. 1817.

FINDING.

assured by lying still and close, and that she may be passed unseen.

It may be repeated---stillness and silence after finding, are almost as necessary in Hare Hunting, as in *ferreting* the Rabbit. Should the Hare be headed back, which so often happens, either from the speed of the Dogs, or the constant aim of the Hare to double, the Pack will generally over-run the Scent. It is thence proper to keep a considerable distance behind them, that by leaving them to their own efforts, they may perceive their loss, turn and recover. In this Chase, the more good seasoned Hounds are left to themselves, the better they will hunt, the more Sport they will shew, and the more surely kill. They are generally too much hallooed from the Spirits of their Followers being in *alt.* A Hare should be patiently hunted through all her *Doubles*, and in that consists the fair and lawful Sport of Hare Hunting and Coursing. Every step she takes should be followed, whether over Downs, Fallows, or through Flocks of Sheep, nor should the Hounds be cast but in the last resort.

The Hare trying all her shifts, for which Nature has qualified her so wonderfully, will, when the occasion offers, make a double upon a piece of dry ground or the high road, where the scent is uncertain, and then leave it with a leap, passing over a space of ground, scarcely to be credited, by which her trail is lost to the Dogs. Another occasion of great fault and trial for Hounds is, when the Hare, running at her utmost speed for a considerable

way, makes an instantaneous turn, as if the *ruse* were really concerted in her fruitful mind, occasioning the Hounds, in their eagerness and headlong speed, considerably to overshoot themselves, unmindful in the interim, of the scent; whilst she stops until they have passed her, and then slyly steals back again towards the place whence she started.

On a bad scenting Day, in Cover, the Hare as well as the Fox, as one of their stratagems, on the look out, will actually trace and hunt the Hounds, exploring every possible resource, until hard pressed by alarm and in despair, she breaks Cover.

———The Covert's utmost bound
Slyly she skirts; behind them cautious creeps,
And in that very Track, so lately stain'd
By all the steaming Crowd, seems to pursue
The foe she flies. Let Cavillers deny
That Brutes have Reason: sure 'tis something more,
'Tis Heav'n directs, and Stratagem inspires,
Beyond the short Extent of human Thought.
But hold—I see her from the Covert break;
Sad on yon little Eminence she sits;
Intent she listens with one Ear erect,
Pond'ring and doubtful what new Course to take,
And how t' escape the fierce blood-thirsty Crew,
That still urge on, and still in Vollies loud,
Insult her Woes, and mock her sore distress.

Somervile.

Hounds being at a check, whether in Hare or Fox Hunting, it is the Duty of a good Huntsman to pull his Horse up, and remain perfectly still and *silent*, but with all his Eyes at their posts, and his

whole mind *present*. The Hounds themselves must recover their fault. It is their affair, and impertinent intermedling will but interrupt them, and most likely preclude success. The following idea of Mr. Beckford is so truly felicitous, that I cannot deny myself the pleasure of its transcription. "If you speak to a Hound at such a time, calling him by his name, which is too much the practice, he seldom fails to look up in your face as much as to say, *what the deuce do you want!*—when he stoops to the scent again, is it not probable he means to say—*you fool you, let me alone!*

Hares always run well out of their knowledge; and if they start down wind, they seldom return, and then is the time to halloo, encourage, and push the Hounds. Harriers should occasionally have blood for their encouragement. Let the Proprietor of a Pack of Hounds *beware* of, and inspire a little common sense into those *Humbugs*, who first ride over a Dog, and then bawl out, *'Ware Horse!* In the Field, a *Sportsman* will take care to speak to them in time; and in roads and Paths, it is indispensible to that Character, for a Man to stop his Horse and make way for the Hounds; nor will he, if to be avoided, ride in the line of the tail Hounds.

A good dry, and well sheltered Hare Warren may be rendered amazingly productive. It should be planted with *Acacia*, *Citizus*, Spanish Broom, and all those Shrubs, on which the Hare delights to browze, and sufficiently stocked with Lucerne,

Parsley, and Rutataga, which will not only cause the Hares to improve to a great size, but prevent their straying to over-run the Neighbourhood. No Dog should ever be suffered to set foot on the Warren; and Weasles, Stoats, and all Vermin, should be trapped and otherwise extirpated. The Hares will easily be *trapped* in the common method. Trapped or boxed Hares from a Warren, generally run straight, making no doubles, from being out of their knowledge, as not having been accustomed to range the Country. They leave a strong Scent, and for the time it lasts, their Chase is like a Fox Chase, and the Hounds are to be hunted in the same manner. Taking it all in all, some Sportsmen are of opinion that, no other Animal affords equal sport in the Chase to the HARE. In course, no Sportsman would think of pursuing the Hare, after the first week or two in MARCH. *Twenty Couple*, form a full Pack, of Harriers, which had better be less than more numerous.

The following Account of Sir MONTAGUE BURGOYNE's Harriers, in Bedfordshire, published four or five Years ago, by Mr. Race, of Stratton Lodge, near Biggleswade, demonstrate what may be achieved by due care and attention to 'rear, feed, hunt and discipline the Pack.'—"They ran four days in the last week, five brace and half of Hares, a brace of which, notwithstanding their stoutness, only have beat. One of them was found at *Eyeworth*, and passing over *Wrestlingworth Field*, she ran a ring round *Tadlow* Ground, and crossing the

River into Cambridgeshire, ran through the Parishes of Great and Little *Morden*, through *Shingy* Pastures, pointing for *Wendy* Spinnies, where being headed, she returned to *Little Morden* Field, and bore to the left to *Abingdon* Enclosures, where the Hounds running from Scent to View, ran into and killed her near the Church; Mr. Wells, who hunts them, having during the whole Chase, made but one Cast. They also killed in the last Season, fifty-three Brace of Hares in a heavy Country, abounding with "greasy fallows and frequented roads."

The following *minutes* on WILTSHIRE COURSING, may not be unacceptable to some Readers. "A *Cote*, is when the Greyhound goes *endways* by his fellow, and gives the Hare a turn. A *Slip* is losing the foot. A *Wrench* is a half turn. The Rules of Wilts Coursing, as far as relates to Greyhounds in the Field, are, that the Dog which has had *the best of the Course*, is the Winner, whether he kill the Hare or not. The propriety of this decision is apparent, for the best and speediest Dog may turn the Hare directly on his Opponent, which may have no other merit than that of laying hold of his Game, when forced full upon him. And that, if a Dog stop in any part of the Course and do not run *home*, it is always decided against him. The Dogs are now loosed from *Slips* of a better construction than formerly in use, so that it is impossible for any Dog to have the least advantage given him at starting."

In the following beautiful and pathetic lines from Somervile, let us chaunt a solemn Dirge over the expiring Hare.

Away they spring; the rustling Stubbles bend
Beneath the driving Storm. Now the poor Chase
Begins to flag, to her last shifts reduc'd.
From Brake to Brake she flies, and visits all
Her well known Haunts, where once she rang'd secure,
With Love and Plenty blest. See! there she goes,
She reels along, and by her Gait betrays
Her inward Weakness. See, how black she looks!
The Sweat that clogs th' obstructed Pores, scarce leaves
A langu'd Scent. And now in open View
See, See, she flies! each eager Hound exerts
His utmost speed and stretches every Nerve.
How quick she turns! their gaping Jaws eludes,
And yet a moment lives; 'till round enclos'd
By all the greedy Pack, with infant Screams
She yields her breath, and there reluctant dies.
So when the furious *Bacchanals* assail'd
Threician Orpheus, poor ill-fated Bard!
Loud was the Cry—Hills, Woods and *Hebrus'* Banks
Return'd their clam'rous Rage; distress'd he flies,
Shifting from Place to Place, but flies in vain,
For eager they pursue, 'till panting, faint,
By noisy Multitudes o'erpower'd, he sinks,
To the relentless Crowd a bleeding Prey.

Ye sacred Powers of *Sensibility*! preserve mine Ears and Eyes from the *infant screams* of the dying Hare, and from the *Tears* trickling adown the Cheeks of the hunted and stricken Deer.

Engraved by T. Ranson from a Painting by L. Clennell.

Published by Sherwood, Neely, & Jones Paternoster Row. Feb. 1. 1818.

RABBITS.

RABBIT.

On the immense possible increase of this Animal, supposed by the wonder-mongers of Antiquity; and that, in a wild state and at large, in a cultivated Country, it is a wasteful and expensive nuisance; I entirely agree with Mr. Moubray, in whose Tract will be found whatever is requisite, on the Nature and Management of the domestic Rabbit. His observation that—"*Rabbits at large must always suffer more in point of profit, by loss of number, than they gain by cheaper feeding, exclusive of the mischief they do*"—may, I apprehend, be depended upon, both in limited, and unlimited enlargement upon the Warren. On which account I have no doubt, it would pay far better to *Hutch*, or confine the Rabbits at the

Homestead of a Warren, than to permit them to run at large, in the usual mode. The Warren land might be then applied to the growth of something for their subsistence, to which it might be best adapted, and would so support a far greater number per Acre; and if found more convenient, as it probably would be, small fenced Paddocks might be made, in which to run and feed the young stock. There have been several Concerns of this kind, in the vicinity of London, in which two or three thousand Does have been hutched; succeeding always in proportion to the care taken, and the goodness of the provision; which places success beyond a doubt, upon a Warren in the Country. The Rabbit, housed, would be free from various destructive perils which it must necessarily encounter abroad—it might be bred to better size and condition, and a greater value put upon the Skin. In case of wet and unhealthy Seasons, preservative care might be taken with the Stock, which it is impossible to extend to it abroad—in fine, such a measure generally embraced, would tend to a considerable augmentation of the national Stock of Provision, and at the same time have the effect of abating a real Nuisance. In the mean time, Rabbits might be preserved as Game, wherever desirable.

As Food for the Rabbit, the leaves and twigs of the *Acacia* have been strongly recommended by a French Writer, who found Rabbits exceedingly fond of them, a fact, which my own Rabbits did

not confirm on trial; they barely eating the Acacia, but without any apparent great relish: however, no doubt need be entertained of its salubrity, but much of the expedience of paying any attention to it in this case, where such a variety of other and better food may be more easily obtained. I have no doubt of *Carrots* being greatly preferable to common *Turnips*, but probably *Rutabaga* may be nearly equal to *Carrots*.

If the *Angora*, or long-flued Rabbit, is so much more profitable than the common, nothing can be more easy than to obtain a breeding Stock from *Normandy*. Supposing the *Angora* to mean nothing more than the white long-flued ones, which we frequently meet with under the name of *French* or *Turkish* Rabbits, I have never found them to be more profitable than the common sort.

An old Keeper used to say—if Rabbit Shooting won't make a Man a quick Shot, nothing will. It forms a very pleasant change of Sport, where the Game is sufficiently plentiful, to keep the Sportsman in a state of activity and bustle, and to send him as often as he would desire to his Chargers; otherwise not. The Fences and Coverts at the Wood's side, or Woods in which are Paths and Carriage-ways, are the Theatres of this Diversion, and the prime Instruments, a small Cry of Finders, which will go through the Thickets, start the Game, and drive it as much as possible from Cover. The Sportsman will be guided by the cry of the Spaniels, where to look for his mark;

and as the Auctioneer says, *he must not dwell upon it*. When two or three are at this sport together, caution is necessary, on account of the rapidity of the Cross Shots; and a friend of mine once retired from it, with his Jacket handsomely peppered, of which, however, he remained unapprized, until putting off his Shooting Dress, we accidentally obtained an opportunity of admiring the shot holes.

FERRETING Rabbits is performed by covering the mouths of the *Burrows* in a Hedge-row, or any place where they lie convenient for being well attended, with *purse* Nets. A sufficient number of Attendants must be conveniently placed, and the less *said* the better. The FERRETS, or *Cats* as they are styled, must be *coped*, that is muzzled, and have *Belts* tied round their Necks, or they might not be recovered. The Man who earths the Cat, should keep on the windward side of the Burrow, a general rule to be observed; for if the degree of alarm be too great, the Rabbit will rather remain to be torn to pieces, than bolt. The instant a Rabbit is netted, the Person waiting must throw himself upon it, and kill it as speedily, and with as little noise as possible. This is the most stupid of every thing called Sport, unless Rabbits are in plenty. The Claws of an old Rabbit are very long and rough, and the mixture of grey *hairs* may be seen; of the young, the Claws and Flue are smooth and soft. The Flesh of one fresh killed, will be stiff, and in colour white, and dry; if stale, the flesh will be loose and flabby, and in-

clining to a blue cast. Rabbits are in season from Old Michaelmas, to the end of January. Doctor Anderson quotes a breed of Rabbits having only one Ear: what pity *that* had not stood in the centre of the Head!

The rest of Europe has been supplied with FERRETS from *Spain* and *Portugal*, which Countries imported them from *Africa*, for the purpose of destroying Rabbits, which in multitudes, overran and almost devoured them. The Ferret needs no description, being so common. It breeds twice in the Season—term of gestation six Weeks, producing six or seven young, which are blind during a Month; and at three Months old are fit for use. The Female sometimes devours her Offspring as soon as kindled, generally in that case, making amends by an additional litter. They are kept in Tubs or Boxes, requiring plenty of clean Straw, or from their stench they are exceedingly offensive. They must not be fed before they are hunted, as a full Stomach would likely induce them to go to sleep, and take up their lodging in the Burrows for hours. Ferrets are said to lose great part of their desire for blood by long domestication, and to require an occasional Cross with the Pole-Cat, which produces a darker coloured Stock, easily to be distinguished from the pale yellow of the pure Ferret. The LURCHER is a Dog when well trained, beyond all others, handy for catching Rabbits or Hares, which he may be taught to take alive.

DEER.

The *different Species* of the DEER, one of the five *Beasts of Venery*, are thus distinguished and denominated—RED DEER, or the STAG and HIND, their Offspring, a CALF—The HART, or six year old Stag—FALLOW DEER, or BUCK and DOE, offspring a FAWN—The ROE-BUCK, BUCK, DOE, and FAWN.

The Deer, in every Variety, stood in ancient Times, in the first rank and consequence, as a Beast of the Chase; and the privilege of keeping and hunting Deer, was in an especial manner, supposed to belong exclusively to Royalty, and to Persons of the highest Rank. And when the King lost a Stag, proclamation was made throughout the Vicinity, that no Person should chase or

Engraved by J. Greig from a Painting by L. Clennell

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Dec. 1. 1817.

DEER SHOOTING.

kill him, which on his return, was ever after styled *a Hart Royal proclaimed*. A Dorsetshire Baron having destroyed a White Hart, under this predicament, in the Reign of *Henry III.* a heavy fine was laid on his Lands, which was paid by that Estate into the Exchequer, as lately as the Reign of *Elizabeth*, under the denomination of *White Hart Silver*.

In the early Ages of our Monarchy, the *mania* of Hunting had full possession of the minds of the King and his great Vassals, and was enjoyed with a splendour and at an expence without bounds, to the great misery and oppression of the People. Edward the *Confessor* who, it must be confessed, with the leave of his Clergy, was also a mighty Hunter before the Lord, received yearly, from the single Manor of *Barton*, near *Gloucester*, *three thousand loaves of bread*, for the maintenance of his Dogs. *Now had this pious Confessor maintained his Hunting Establishment out of his own real and proper Income, and hunted to no other Man's injury*, not a word, with justice, could be urged against such fair and lawful enjoyment. Under the Norman Dynasty, so great was the devotion of the Nobles to the Chase, that many of them kept Packs of Hounds to the extent of eight hundred Couples each, with Horses and Attendants in Proportion.

The expence of a Hunting Establishment for the Sovereign, has always formed a regular branch of public disbursement, and was formerly of far

greater consequence, than it has been in these latter times. The Salary of the Master of the King's Stag Hounds, is at present, two thousand Pounds per Annum; with one hundred and twenty three Pounds to the Huntsman, and one hundred and four each, to six Yeomen Prickers, as they are styled, together with certain privileges. With much propriety, the Masterships of both *Buck Hounds and Harriers*, the expence of which extended to nearly five thousand pounds per Annum, have been abolished. In fact, these Offices have been generally Sinecures.

The Deer exhibits that delicacy of skin, that extent in the parts contributory to action, and that ductile elasticity of sinew, which in the aggregate compose the quality by Sportsmen denominated *Blood;* but the whole Deer Species, however delicate, from the invariable irregularity of their form, and the obtuse angles always visible in it, falls far short of the beautiful symmetry of the COURSER, or *Blood Horse.* The Stag, distinguished by his lofty and branching Antlers, the Royal favourite, is held to be the most elegant and beautiful of the Genus, in these Northern Climes; possessing also something more solid than beauty, since he grows to the largest size. According to Mr. Daniel, a Stag was killed in the County of Aberdeen, which weighed, in the Smithfield style, sinking the offals, three hundred and eighteen Pounds, or nearly forty Stones, the Carcase. History records one in Bavaria of nearly double

that weight. Upon the Duke of Athol's Estate, in Scotland, where the Forests and Chases are very extensive, at certain times of the year, Herds of five hundred are seen; and upon the Moors in the West of England, red Deer are still to be seen, thinly scattered.

The Stag is an Animal of great Courage, and well known to be extremely dangerous at certain Seasons. In the year 886, the Emperor *Basilius* was attacked by a Stag of vast size. The Beast, catching his Horns in the Monarch's Belt, lifted him from his Horse, and caused his death by internal bruises. An Attendant, with his sword, released Basilius from his painful situation, by cutting the Belt, for which needful and indispensable Act, the honest Attendant was executed, as having 'drawn his Sword upon the Emperor.' If such wicked and insane fooleries are to be dignified with the sacred name of laws, there is probably a *law*, somewhat analogous to this, at this moment existing in Spain; and the Anecdote is here given, not only to exemplify the strength and resolution of the Stag, but to remind the British Reader of the gross absurdities, by which Tyranny has ever been supported, and of the variety of degradation, to which slavish Man has been in the habit of submission from his fellow Man.

The Fallow Deer chiefly, with some *Stags*, are kept in a sort of domesticated state, in Parks, and fattened like other cattle; and from these comes the regular supply of Venison for the Table. That a

great deal of rank, unsavoury, and flabby Venison comes into the Market, is no doubt to be attributed to the absurd and mean practice of feeding with Oilcake. Perhaps in no other Countries than England and France, is the Deer domesticated for the purpose of being fattened, and our numbers of the Fallow Deer are very considerable. The Deer is probably indigenous to this Country, but two of our Varieties of the Fallow Deer, are of foreign origin; the *deep brown*, which were procured by King James I. from *Norway*, landed in *Scotland*, and afterwards transferred to *Epping Forest and Enfield Chase*;* and the beautiful spotted kind, supposed to have been since imported from *Bengal*. Deer procreate in the second year, and their term of GESTATION is eight months, seldom producing more than one at a time. They arrive at perfection in three to five years, and live from twenty to thirty. The Fallow Deer feeds upon various articles, which the Stag is said to refuse. They are susceptible of training to Harness, and many years since, a Noble Lord actually drove four Stags in his Phaeton; a fact which is excelled by a Gentleman of the present day, who drives *Zebras* in his Curricle through the Streets of the Metropolis; a Beast which, it was formerly supposed, could never be tamed.

The ROEBUCK, the smallest sized, I believe, of the European Deer, was, in former times, in considerable plenty in the Northern parts of England, and there are a few yet remaining in Scotland.

The last of its race, in England, was, it seems, killed in Northumberland, about seventy years since; but we learn from a very satisfactory account in the *Sporting Magazine*, that, in the Year 1800, the *Earl of Dorchester*, turned into his Woods, near *Milton Abbey*, Dorset, four or five brace of Roebucks, some of which he procured from the *Menagerie* of Brooks of London, at a considerable expence: and some were presented to him by the Earl of Egremont. *Mr. Pleydell*, of *Whatcombe*, a Neighbour, assissted Lord Dorchester in preserving this Stock of Game, and has since entered on a new Chase, the Hunting them with Harriers, which, from its novelty to most Sportsmen of the present day, it may be proper to extract a few of the leading particulars. The Country round Milton is wild, with a large proportion of Woodland and Valley, surrounded by high and steep Hills, generally covered with Copse Wood or Plantations. The Woods are large and full of Hares, and Deer Hunting being in course new to Mr. Pleydell's Harriers, he encountered some difficulty in making them steady to that Scent, which however is very sweet, and nearly agreeing with that of the Hare. But the Hounds being once blooded with the Roebuck, little farther mistake succeeded.

The *Covers* are DRAWN for Roebuck, in the same manner as for Fox. When first raised, the Buck runs short, heading the hounds but at a small distance, the cry, in consequence, is most cheerful

and animating, every Hound enjoying the hot scent, and eager in the pursuit. From this mode of running, the Roebuck often appears exhausted, and in immediate danger of being taken; far from which, after suffering itself to be approached by the Pack, and even to be found in the midst of the Hounds, it has been known to leave the Wood, and to hold them a Chase of more than two hours, before it could be taken. The Roebuck is in no danger of being chopped by the Dogs, as both Hare and Fox sometimes are, the strength and agility of the former always enabling them to escape, nor can they be taken unless completely knocked up; when even the oldest Bucks never stand at bay, but passively surrender themselves, instinctively conscious, perhaps, of the want of those powerful Weapons of the Stag, the brow Antlers, and of their total incapacity of defence. In this Hunt, the Hounds are frequently liable to more fatigue than the Horses, for the Deer running much in Cover, and the Scent being extremely sweet, the Dogs through the whole pursuit are at their full speed, and after a long day, shew on their return to the Kennel, the effects of their eager exertion. The Roebuck is much stronger, and runs longer than the Fallow Deer, and differs from all other Deer, in the respect that he is little inclined to take soil. Only two have as yet made their way to the river *Stour*, although apparently such a near and convenient resource, and those two were killed soon after they had reached the River. In

the last and present Season, Mr. Pleydell's Hounds have been out in pursuit of the Roebuck, forty-four times; found a Deer every day except two, and killed twenty-six; and notwithstanding these Deer do not in general go any great distance from the Wood, some of the Chases have been to the extent of seven or eight miles in length, and more than three hours in duration. They possess their full strength in the Winter, as well as the Summer Season; are extremely nimble, and take immense leaps, but are not remarkable for speed, nor able to escape from Greyhounds in an open Country; nor are, I should apprehend, any other kinds of Deer.

The Roe generally producing two, sometimes three Fawns at a birth, Lord Dorchester's Woods are not only well stocked, but many Deer have also migrated into those of neighbouring Proprietors, and indeed have now become almost common in that part of the County of Dorset. Roebucks never herd like Fallow Deer, but live in separate Families; a Buck and Doe, in the breeding Season, retiring to a distant spot, where they remain with their young, till, at the approach of the next Season, they are obliged to drive them off, from the expectation of another Family. Although the Roebuck, when full grown, does not quite attain the size and weight of the Fallow Doe, the Fawns of the former increase quickly in growth, and are larger and stronger in proportion, at a year old, than those of the Fallow Deer. The body of the

Roebuck in Winter, is covered with long, coarse, russet hair; in Summer, the Coat becomes short and smooth, and of a bright rufous, or reddish colour, the rump being of pure white, which viewed from behind, is very conspicuous, with little appearance of a Tail; and on the hinder legs, below the Joint, there is a Tuft of long Hair.

This Species of Deër is supposed to do less injury to the Woods, than the others; their Food, in the Summer, consisting of long coarse sedgy Grass, which abounds in Woodlands, their proper Harbour; in Winter, they consume a quantity of *Ivy*, which, with the leaves of the Bramble, Pine Branches, and those articles generally affected by the Hare, constitute their food at that Season. Winter is the proper Season for the Flesh of the Roebuck, which is very fine, and in flavour resembles more that of the Hare, than the common Venison, and is at all times wholly destitute of fat. This probably would not be the case, were they purposely fattened. These animals are in perfection from eighteen months to two years old; afterwards, the Flesh of the Buck becomes hard; that of the Fawn's is loose and soft.

As a favourite Chase in this Country, Deer Hunting has long since given way to that of the Fox; and few Packs of Deer Hounds are now kept beside those of the Royal Establishment on Windsor Forest. The *Earl of Derby* has a very celebrated Pack of Fox Hounds, at the Oaks, in Surrey, with which his Lordship hunts both Deer

Engraved by Jnº Webb, from a Painting by Ab. Cooper. A.R.A.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Decr. 1. 1817.

CLINKER & JASON.

Two celebrated Stag Hounds, the Property of The Rt. Honble. the Earl of Derby, to whom this Plate is respectfully inscribed by his Most Obet. Serts. The Publishers

and Fox; and to this Pack belong the two Hounds, *Clinker* and *Jason*, of which we have been so fortunate as to obtain the true and animated Portraiture. The Earl's Hounds run so fast upon the sweet Scent of a Deer, as to beat the best Horses, in a part of the Country where the highest bred Hunters are in use. To speak of Deer Hunting generally, the best sport, and most like the natural Chase, is afforded by AN OUT-LYING DEER, tried for and unharboured by any Hounds, which will find plenty of work should it be in an enclosed Country. As to the regular Deer Hunt, the Game is carted to a particular spot at the Cover Side, and turned before the Hounds, with the accustomed law, at an appointed time; and if in condition and in good will, he runs his length across the Country, makes his circles, and returning upon his foot, regains his harbour; or is overtaken by the Hounds, torn down and killed, or preserved for a future day, the Deer Hounds being trained to *stop*, although within the scent of Blood: in the meanwhile the Sportsmen, even those which are compelled to keep at a convenient distance, granting them, Horse and Man, sufficient stoutness to persevere, may always be sure of the *View* of Game, perhaps twelve to fourteen hands high, and of such respectable size. A Fox Chase is pretty generally allowed to be quite a different thing to this.

DEER STEALING has haply and happily subsided with the enthusiasm or mania, of Deer Hunting; the Deer seems a booty too large and bulky for the

modern Poacher. According to old Tradition, Persons of a superior Class occasionally took up this enterprising and laudable Vocation—Young Gentlemen Deer Stealers. I had the honour to be intimate with, perhaps the only Survivor of this Corps in England—the late *Thomas Wintringham*, Esq. of *Epsom*, who about the Year 1774, then upwards of fourscore Years of age, whilst smoking his Pipe after Dinner, has often related to me his dangers, his escapes and his success at Deer Stealing, the period of which must have been about the middle of the Reign of George I. This Gentleman, who plainly shewed the remains of an athletic and active Person, was of the family of Sir Clifton Winteringham, and I chanced to be present, when they traced their pedigree to a common Ancestor in the Reign of Elizabeth. Mr. Wintringham had experienced in his long life, several sudden and decisive changes of fortune, the most important of which were, the loss of his whole property by the South Sea Bubble, and the ultimate regaining of a considerable Estate from a small slip of land, which about the Year 1722, cost three hundred Pounds, the money being furnished by his Mother, a Daughter of the Lord Chief Baron Dodd.

With the notice of Lord Derby's Fox Hounds, as hunting the Deer, I omitted to state that, about three Years since, the Duke of Richmond presented to the Prince Regent, a Pack of Hounds intended for the same Chase; and the first time they were taken out to be blooded to their new

Game, accompanied by two Couple of Stag Hounds, they found an out-lying Deer in a Plantation near *Golden Farmer*, and with encouragement, ran him heartily as they would a Fox. The Huntsmen were luckily able to stop the Hounds, just as they reached the Herd at Swinley, or much mischief might have ensued, the Pack being capital, and having a great deal of Devil in them. "A Stag was then turned out from a Cart, WHOSE LEG HAD BEEN DISLOCATED; although lame, he ran an hour and three quarters, and was taken just beyond Hartford Bridge."

Although so long familiarized, heart-sickened, and disgusted at the innumerable acts of Cruelty attendant upon our Sports, I must own, I was astonished at the intelligence, new to me, of the above cold-blooded, base and cowardly act of barbarity, which appeared on enquiry to be an old practice! The account of this gross transaction, so disgraceful to modern British Sporting, was first made public in the *Morning Chronicle*, infinitely to the honour of that respectable journal. It afterwards appeared, as a matter of course, in the *Sporting Magazine*, to two Letters in which, the one in Number 255, p. 102, the other in Number 257, p. 229, February 1814, I request the Reader to be referred, declining to make farther remarks on the subject, than that I trust, accounts which were circulated through the Press, in every Quarter of the Country, could not fail of attracting the attention of the Prince Regent, and that consequently, the Sport patronized

by his Royal Highness, has never since suffered so gross a contamination.

In addition to the above, it behoves me not to omit an *Abyssinian* enormity, of which I was informed many years ago, by a Gentleman present, a horror stricken and disgusted Spectator. I wish the information had been derived from a less authentic source. At the Easter *Stag Hunt* upon Epping Forest, well known by the name of the *Cockney Hunt*, the unfortunate Animal when pulled down by the Dogs, and they whipped off, *was literally dissected alive, being cut into bits, to be distributed to the surrounding Savages!* Whether this horrible act, like so many others, was for the base purpose of emolument or not, I have forgotten. Surely the Advocates of justice and morality will at last join, and in the pithy language of Burke, *frown* such abominations out of the Land.

To couple bad things together, and I hope, to consign them to perpetual contempt and disgrace, I transcribe the following *knowing* Receipt from a little Book not long since published, in which will be found some useful things, larded with a reasonable quantity of slang and nonsense, but the whole composed with an impressive and meritorious brevity. "In Cover you may bring them (Hawks) to the Gun, BY TYING A CAT ABOVE THE HOCKS, to a bender that will just keep her in motion: this must be in an opening near which you can make a good hiding place. They will come to HER NOISE." To those who can be stupid and brutal

enough, to perpetrate such a hellish act of cruelty upon any animal, for a pretended interest, I unreservedly wish a precisely similar suspension, and swing during twenty minutes—*the tye placed above the knee*—from better motives, in which nothing like revenge, in itself vain and empty, is mixed; but for the salutary purpose of example, and of softening by a practical lesson, the obdurate heart of the Patient into common feeling, and enlivening in his torpid Brains, the half dead embers of common Sense.

To the Deer and the Hare, it is averred, Nature has given *the Ear for Music*; and from its marked attention to the human *whistle*, I should not be surprised if the Pigeon be found similarly gifted. The Deer is extremely tenacious of life, and has survived wounds in the Heart beyond any other Animal. The following Pedigree of the celebrated STALLION GREYHOUND *Lochinvar*, the property of MAJOR TOPHAM, a fine Portrait of which may be seen in the above quoted Magazine, was accidentally omitted in the Section on Coursing. It is given as an example of correctness in Pedigree:

He was got by old Lochinvar, out of Flora, which Bitch was out of Venus, Sister to Mr. Best's celebrated Dog Snowdrop, by Miracle, from Mr. Mundy's Breed. Old Lochinvar was got by Dart, out of Phillis, which was own Sister to old Snowball. Dart was got by Old Snowball, out of the very famous Bitch Dent, which was beaten but once, by Snowball himself, in a private Trial.

Lochinvar is now withdrawn from all public Running, and serves Greyhound Bitches at three Guineas each.

Engraved by T. Ranson from a Painting by L. Clennell.

Published by Sherwood, Neely, & Jones, Paternoster Row, Mar. 1. 1818.

THE FOX.

FOX HUNTING.

Farewell, *Cleora*; here deep sunk in Down
Slumber secure, with happy Dreams amus'd,
'Till grateful Steams shall tempt thee to receive
Thy early Meal, or thy officious Maids,
The Toilet plac'd, shall urge thee to perform
Th' important Work. Me other joys invite,
The Horn sonorous calls, the Pack awak'd,
Their Matins chaunt, nor brook my long Delay.
My Courser hears their Voice; see there with Ears
And Tail erect, neighing he paws the Ground;
Fierce Rapture kindles in his red'ning Eyes,
And boils in every Vein.

SOMERVILE.

The FOX CHASE may be as truly, as emphatically, styled a British Sport. If it did not even originate in Britain, it was here practised very early, and in the course of many Ages, has been improved to a height of perfection unknown in all

other Countries. Equally signal has been the enthusiastic ardour of British Sportsmen, in the pursuit of this favourite Chase, which has, through a long course of time, held the highest place in their affections. The *moral Economist* indeed, cannot say too much in its favour, when conducted upon fair Sporting Principles, and refined by the generous hand of discrimination, from the sordid dregs of Barbarism, and superfluous Cruelty; a patriotic attention also being shewn that no damage ensue to the Crops upon the Ground, on which depends the national Subsistence, or vexatious spoil, to the Property and Improvements of Individuals. In the Chase of the Fox, we follow the impulse of Nature, and may sanction it with the ordeal and the approbation of reason. In Reynard we pursue a Beast of Prey, which lives by rapine and Blood—*and Blood demands Blood.* We hunt a Hunter, and put in practice all the wiles and stratagems of the Chase, against the most wily of Animals: we pursue an Animal, the Courage of which is equal to his Character for rapine and spoil, and which dies bravely, without a groan, and selling his life as dearly as he can. At his brave Death, our exultation is not damped, either by the *infant Screams* of the Hare, or the *Tears* of the Deer; nor are we tearing in pieces a *Domestic*, which has been for such purpose, turned out of our protection. The Fox being hunted has fair play, and would that I were Etymologist good enough, to derive Tallyho from *talio*, or *like for like*. Joining reason

and common sense in the Chase, my Boys—TALLYHO! HARK FORWARD! TALLYHO! TALLYHO!

There is, it is true, an existing law recommendatory of the destruction of Foxes, enacting a reward for every Fox killed, to be paid by the Churchwardens of the respective Parishes. This is a proper and salutary enactment, *en dernier resort*, and in contemplation of a possibility of the neglect of Fox Hunting; since the Fox, like the Pole-Cat and Stoat, is really a Vermin, devoid of any countervailing benefit to Man, excepting perhaps in the destruction of a few Field Mice, and if suffered in an uninterrupted increase, would make mortal havoc among Poultry and Game, and even young Lambs and sucking Pigs. Foxes indeed might be extirpated, as Wolves have been heretofore; but there exists no similar motive, and *Diversion* or *Sport* is also a necessary of life, that the compromise in this case, is fair and equitable. I most willingly allow thus much, without being at all disposed to take the same view of the subject, embraced by the well known Letter of a Noble Lord to his Steward in 1792, commanding a dismission from his Farms, of all those Tenants, who had been reported inimical to Fox Hunting. The excessive and wanton damages to which I had been witness, about that period, in a different quarter of the Country indeed, induced my suspicion, that, many of his Lordship's Tenants might have too just grounds of complaint. Farmers liberally treated

in the affair of the Game, whether *Bird, Hare* or *Fox*, so far as I have ever seen, will enter heartily into its preservation; most of them being in tolerable circumstances, are themselves Sportsmen, some of them keenly so; and I have lately seen in a published Letter the strange averment that, in Fox Hunting, Farmers are far more wanton and careless respecting damage to the Lands and Fences over which they gallop, than the Noblemen and Gentlemen whom they attend.

Whilst Sporting and Hunting are at a Check, I feel inclined to intrude upon the Reader, with a little bit of digression, but into neither Metaphysics, nor Divinity—it is to say that, I cannot help regretting or laughing to find certain really able and patriotic Heads joined with the Big-wigs and Fanatics, in the sage speculation of *how* to exclude, both from the Streets and Houses, certain unfortunate and subservient Beings, independently of the aid of whom, a state of Society like the present, never has, or can possibly subsist. We act capriciously by old *Mandeville*, the father of our fashionable and humane Population scheme, treating his, as we do certain other Volumes, chusing and rejecting, as it may suit our interest or pleasure. Thus we reject the grand principle inculcated in his '*Modest Defence.*' But *perfectibility* can have no limit, short of perfection, in the high road to which, it has been first recommended to *conduct* away Thunder and Lightning *by the great*; next, and within the last Month, to prevent Frost, by

the provision of a sufficient quantity of Wind, which naturally counteracts it!

Let me suffer my present digressive fit to exhaust itself in a late example of just, noble and patriotic sentiment, from the mouth of one of our Lords of the Soil. At the Dinner of the Christmas Cattle Show, in London, Sir John S. Sebright from the Chair, declared, after avowing his entire independence in the House of Commons—'the esteem he felt for Farmers, above every other Class of Men, amongst whom it was his pride to have always associated and lived, solely upon the produce of his rents and farms; and that to his Tenants he had ever felt as much grateful for their rents, as they had been to him for the use of his lands.'

The breed of *old English Fox Hunters*, it is well known, has been long since extinct. They were, many of them, a sort of *Gentlemen Yeomanry*, or Country Squires, with a few Hundreds per annum in land, who farming a little, as part of their Household Establishment, kept a Pack of Hounds, and a Stable of half, or three part bred Horses, such as have already been adverted to under the popular name, oftener used than understood, of the *old English Hunter*. To these, the Squire passionately devoted himself, body and soul, throughout life, and the eldest Son or Young Squire, was bred up to the same *profession*. These men, really, in the words of the Poet, were accustomed to—'hail the gentle dawn,' being usually in the Field

and at Cover, at an hour too early for the Sportsman of the present day, to have opened his Eyes. They were clad in a substantial and *buckish*, or peculiar Hunting style, and indeed admired every thing *substantial*, more especially in their Eating and Drinking, affecting the utmost contempt and abhorrence for *French kickshaws*, and boasting of their English Sirloin, the age and goodness of their *October*, and the stiffness of their Punch. Among the younger Branches of them were many desperate Riders, who professed to *refuse* nothing, and in their practice, had full enough of the savage barbarism of early times. Their Hounds were fuller of *tongue* than *Speed*, and they generally laboured hard for blood, as their Followers did for the Brush. I had the opportunity when very young, of often conversing with a Fox Hunter of the above description, in his ninety-ninth year. When in good humour, he related with glee, the hard runs he had in the Year of the Revolution, when his Father's Stables were alternately occupied by the Troop Horses of James II. and the Prince of Orange. In the old Man's opinion, it was indispensable that a Huntsman should be able to *Yoics-ho!* as clear as a bell and as loud as H—ll, and have a d—d good SCREAM.

In the above Times, when Englishmen supposed the foundation of the State to be safe, although they had not even a single hundred Millions of Debt to steady it, Men in the Country possessed of that, which would now be reckoned a starving

Income for a respectable family, would set up a Coach, and ride comfortably about the Neighbourhood, drawn by a Pair of strong Geldings, which occasionally took their turn at plough and cart. If excessive Taxation had done no greater harm, than effecting a variation in the Social Arrangement, and putting it out of the power of certain Ranks either to keep Hounds or a Coach, such an event would not have much of the lamentable to cloud it. We have yet improved—but *no thanks to Taxation*. The Subscription Packs of Hounds and the present Hunting System are, in all probability, at least upon a par in point of utility and adaptation to their proposed ends, with any System of former times. Since every thing necessarily submits to Custom, and that of early rising is abolished, need we wonder that, so few Fox Hunters, of these days, are found groping their way in the dark of a cheerless and foggy Morning, in order to greet *the early Dawn*, or that instead thereof, so many should wait patiently and philosophically between the Sheets with *Cloora*, until the broad Day light greet them, through their Chamber Windows? When Parliamentary Business shall commence as early as that of the Courts of Law, and be dispatched as in former Times, in the course of the Day, and families retire to rest at ten and eleven o'clock at night, there may be a chance that early Fox hunting will again come into vogue—but not until then. As a general Maxim, the salubrity of early rising is unquestionable, and in every thing

else, as well as Fox Hunting, is attended with peculiar advantages; yet on the whole, with respect to this point, I know not that it could be more conveniently managed, than according to present Custom, whether with regard to pleasure or profit.

Nor can I agree with the Votaries of the old School that, 'Fox Hunting has retrograded whilst other Sports have improved.' We have lost none of the arts and stratagems by which the Fox is pursued, and the Chase itself is as strongly and universally in favour, in this Country, as at any former period. Speed both in Horse and Hound, has long been the favourite Qualification, and we have attained it in perfection. The Objectors, urge the want of Music in our Packs, and that our fashionable Hounds go so fast that, 'they cannot both run and cry'—but there is a time to run, and a time to cry. Nor is there any want of materials at least, to form both Hounds and Horses after the old model, should any persons be desirous of reviving it. When an ordinary Hunter was worth from Twenty-five to forty Guineas, a capital Horse would fetch one hundred. Hunters of similar Classes, are at present worth from seventy, to three or four hundred Guineas, having advanced, in much the same proportion, with our Bread and our Beef.

As the *Art* of Fox hunting has, in my opinion, improved, so the *Manners* of modern Fox Hunters are certainly refined from the grossness and obstreperous tone of former periods. Excessive Drink-

ing with locked doors, and—*he who is able to go is able to stay*, has long and most properly, been banished, as well from the dinner after a Chase, as from every other; and the Fox Hunters' *Set-in* for the Evening, does not commence now, as in the Year 1700, with old Song, the tune of which was either that of, 'Cease your funning,' or much resembling it—

> Nonsense and Folly, will make us all Jolly,
> And chase Melancholy—melancholy away!

Not but I have witnessed in the course of my life, a few of the Vagaries of a former period—the Halloos! and Screams of Bacchanals, and the Bloody head of a Fox immersed in a Bowl, or rather *Pond* of Punch, which was then stirred up with the Brush, the whole Party being next re-baptized with it dripping from the liquor, which was quaffed by all, with as real enthusiasm and *gout*, as could possibly be evinced by the Noble Duke, who devoured part of a Fox's head devilled! On the other hand, we may boast that our conversation also, has received a very laudable improvement, in the respect that common Swearing is now no longer heard, to that disgusting excess which was formerly the case. We have now, no longer either D—n me whiz! or D—n me whack! And if Mr. Beckford's choleric Friend who used to proceed against those who rode too near his Hounds, from soft injunctions to whole Vollies of the first-rate Oaths, be yet alive and a Fox Hunter, no doubt but he has joined in

the general reformation. Mr. Cobbett however must not be forgotten, who avers that every man who stifles an Oath, is an Hypocrite: yet as a Philosopher, he will not deny the propriety, and farther the duty, of repressing inordinate passion.

The Fox is truly a *universalist*, inhabiting all Quarters of the Globe, and nearly all Climates. He is too well known to need description. We have several *Varieties* of the Fox in this Country, differing chiefly in Size, and from the nature of the District in which they are bred. As for Example, the largest are found in mountainous, open, and wild Countries, and then take the Names of the *Greyhound* and *Mastiff* Fox, the former of which is said to be tallest and boldest. There have been many instances of these attacking and destroying small Heath Sheep, especially those in a sickly and weak state, and in some Countries they are very destructive to young Lambs. I cannot say that I ever saw any other than the common *Cur* Fox in Essex, but have been lately informed that in the *Rodings*, a part of that County to the Northward of Chelmsford, the Foxes are of the largest or Greyhound breed, and bred above ground, whence they are supposed, really or otherwise, to derive both extraordinary speed and wind; and a good run over the *Rodings*, has always been held in that part of the Country, a fair trial for a Hunter. The Pack of Fox Hounds under the management of *Colonel Cook*, are celebrated for the Speed and Game, with which they follow this breed of Foxes,

to attend which with equal gallantry, requires the best bred and strongest Horses. At the head of those which have signalized themselves in this Hunt, and with the *Craven* Hounds, stands *Dulcinea*, by Don Quixotte, Dam by Highflyer, the Property of James St. Aubin, Esq. The common, or CUR FOX, is the least in size, and most familiar, frequenting by night the Home-stall of the Farmer, and occasioning the necessity of having his Poultry Houses well secured; from a negligent defect of which, I have at various periods suffered severely.

Foxes are playful and even affectionate Animals, and may be easily tamed, but remain always subject to occasional savage fits, whence much danger may arise from familiarity with them. Their olfactory Nerves are so vigorous that, Game-keepers affirm they will catch a scent in calm weather, at some hundred yards distance. In *Japan*, Voyagers tell us, the People believe the Devil himself to be in the Fox, and they are no doubt right, to a hair of his brush; that is to say, in the language of common sense, *evil* or mischief is in him. The Fox *clickets*, I believe, usually in January, when the Dog, or Male, yelps or barks more, than at any other season; and the Vixen litters in March, or April at the latest, bringing five or six at a litter. They breed but once a Year, unless an extraordinary litter; grow to the age of eighteen months, and live twelve and fifteen Years. The Fox in cold weather, generally sleeps enkennelled during the whole

Day, spending the whole Night abroad in search of his Prey, and when unsuccessful, prowling about to a late hour of the Morning, which habit, no doubt, gave rise to early Fox Hunting, especially necessary where Foxes are scarce. In fine Weather, he may be found abroad in the Day time, basking upon the Bank of a Fence, or in any dry and warm place near to Brake or Cover. His appearance is generally announced like that of the Owl's, by the instinctive Cries and Screams of Magpies, Jays, and Crows, which will follow his motions to a considerable distance, and are often a guide to the Huntsman when his Hounds are at a fault.

Having remarked on Hunting '*the early Dawn,*' recommended by those who probably were wise enough to leave the practice of it to their Huntsmen, the best exemplification of the existing Custom, together with a List of a few of the best Packs of Hounds of the present Day, will be found in the following *Hunting Intelligence* for November, 1817, extracted from the *County Chronicle.*

The Duke of Grafton's Hounds meet Wednesday, at *Furzen Fields*; Friday, at Williams's Bridge; at half past ten each day.

Lord Althorp's Hounds meet Wednesday, at *Kelmarsh*; Friday, at *Little Harrowden*; at half past ten each Day.

Lord Fitz-williams's Hounds meet Thursday, at *Thrapstone Bridge*; at half past ten.

The Oakley Hounds meet Thursday, at *Bromham Green*; Saturday at *Ravensden*, each Day at ten.

The Quordon Hounds meet Tuesday, at *Bean Manor Hall*; Wednesday, *at Normanton on the Wolds*; Friday, at *Thorpe Satchville*; Saturday, at *Bunny*; each morning at half past ten.

Sir Bellingham Graham's Hounds meet Tuesday, at *Higham*; Thursday, at *Chemsley*; Saturday, at *Newbold Gate*; Monday, November 24th, at *Whittington Rough*; each morning at ten.

Lord Derby's Stag Hounds have arrived at the *Oaks*, and expect to begin hunting in ten days.

H. Jolliffe's, Esq. Fox Hounds, meet Thursday, *at Wray Common*; Saturday, at *Platt's Green*; Monday, November 24th, at the *Hermitage*; Wednesday, at *Brockham*; Saturday, at the *Star, Holly Lane*.

The Surry Fox Hounds meet Thursday, at *Keston Cross*; Saturday, at the *Lion*, Walingham.

The Sanderstead Harriers meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, at Kennel, three Miles distant from Croydon.

The Hatfield Hounds meet Thursday, at *Broadwater*; Saturday, at *Warren Gate*; at ten.

The East Essex Fox Hounds meet Thursday, at *General Elwes's Park Gate*; Saturday, at *Mark's Hall*; at ten each day.

Mr. Conyer's Hounds meet Thursday, at *Blackmoor High Wood*; Saturday, at *Hatfield Town*.

The practice of the above Packs marks the ge-

neral Custom, both with respect to the time of day at which they meet, and the number of times in the Week, which they hunt.

I have spoken of the HUNTER, an object of the very first consequence to the Chase; but I have since observed that, Mr. Beckford, stating the circumstance of some Persons disapproving *Grass*, on the ground that, *when a Horse is in good order, the turning him out, undoes it all again*, does not speak with sufficient decision on the point, which I take to be of great importance. Nothing can come in competition with the soundness of the Horse's Legs and Feet, and the refrigeration, and as we may say, re-animation of his whole Body, after months of excessive labour and straining, and confinement to a solid, heating, and constipating diet. There is no equal remedy in the case, to that best of all coolers and alterants, the Spring Grass, the purifying, elastic, external Air, and the Dew of Heaven. It is very true that a Horse, from neglect, may be too far gone, to be benefited by even these; but every Hunter is justly and fairly entitled to them, from his first season. They who think it necessary, may allow their Hunters a daily feed of Corn, whilst at Grass. The Horses will be taken in, just before the Fly Season, with their limbs cooled and strengthened, their Spirits enlivened, and their whole System invigorated, and ready to be put into a state of preparation for the next Season. What can a Horse possibly lose by natural and rational treatment like this, excepting

in the mere imagination of his Owner? The fineness of his Skin is easily recoverable, and with respect to *good order*, that, one would suppose, must rather consist in renovated vigour, and augmented powers of action, than in appearance, or any presumed virtue of custom. The Holiday of a month or two, out of the twelve, is a kindness we owe to the Horse, which so dearly earns it, whilst it contributes to lengthen, and to render his services of more worth—but as Mr. Beckford says, 'can standing in a hot Stable, do him any good?' In the mean time, I see nothing of necessity or use, but much unseemliness and inconvenience, in riding *rough Hunters*, as they used to be called, meaning Hunters compelled to run abroad all Winter, never any other than the practice of a few singular and whimsical Sportsmen, and I trust, by this time entirely out of date. Nor have I ever seen reason to approve giving purging Medicines to Horses abroad, to which I think there are a variety of objections. There appears to me no necessity for those Medicines until the Horse returns to the Stable.

The Speed of our improved Breed of Fox Hounds, their superiority, which they no doubt owe to the Greyhound Cross, and which indeed is sufficiently visible in their form, has been *timed* on several occasions. First by the celebrated *Hugo Meynell*, the Prince of Fox Hunters, of whom and *Peter Beckford*, it may be said, the Practice of the one and the Comments of the other, form the true British School of Fox Hunting; and also by

Colonel Thornton, whose name will live as a general Sportsman, and an amusing Sporting Writer. Mr. Meynell matched two Fox Hounds, *Richmond* and a *Bitch*, against two of Mr. Barry's, *Bluecap* and *Wanton*; to run over the Beacon Course at *Newmarket*, for five hundred Guineas. Mr. Barry's Hounds were trained on *Tiptree Heath, Essex*, by the well known Wm. Crane, the Huntsman, of Rivenhall Inn, in that Neighbourhood. Their mode of training was to run a Fox Drag, three times a week, upon Turf; length of the Drag from eight to ten miles. They were kept to their exercise, from August the 1st to September the 28th, and fed upon Oatmeal and Milk, and Sheep's Trotters. On September the 30th the Match was run, by making the accustomed Drag from the Rubbing House at *Newmarket* Town-end, to the Rubbing House at the Starting Post of the Beacon Course, the four Hounds being immediately laid on the Scent. Mr. Barry's Bluecap came in first, and Wanton very close to him, second; the Beacon Course, four miles, being run over by these Hounds in a few seconds above *eight minutes*; the same time which an ordinary Plate Horse will take to perform it in, with eight Stone, or eight Stone seven Pounds on his back; and within which time, Eclipse was said to have performed four miles at York, carrying twelve Stone, which he probably might do, although it really was not ascertained. Mr. Meynell's Richmond was beaten by upwards of one hundred yards, and the Bitch did not run

her course through. Threescore Horsemen, started with the Hounds, of whom, Cooper, Mr. Barry's Huntsman, was first at the Ending Post, having rode the Mare that carried him, quite blind! a stupid piece of cruelty, in all probability, arising from the weight the Mare carried, joined perhaps to want of blood in her; speed after the rate of thirty Miles per Hour continued for four Miles, appertaining only to Racers and racing Weights, a fact of which Sportsmen ought to have been aware. Twelve Horses only, out of the Sixty, were able to run in with the Hounds, and indeed it is extraordinary that, twelve were found able so to do; Wm. Crane, mounted upon a King's Plate Horse, called Rib, being the twelfth. The odds before starting, were seven to four in favour of Mr. Meynell, whose Hounds during their Exercise for the Match, were fed entirely upon Legs of Mutton. The performance of *Merkin*, a Fox Hound Bitch bred by Colonel Thornton, was still far superior to the above; according to the account published— she ran a Trial of four Miles in *seven Minutes and half a second*, and was afterwards sold in 1795, for four Hogsheads of Claret, the Seller to be entitled to two Couple of her Whelps.

Fox Hunting catches hold on the Affections beyond any other Sport, and excels all in variety, enterprize and interest; it ought not to be forgotten that, it also catches too strong a hold, in this age of Taxation, upon a moderate Estate, as may be easily conceived, from a rehearsal of the items

necessary to fill up such an Establishment—a Kennel of Hounds—A Stable of Hunters and Hacks, sufficiently numerous for the Proprietor and suite of Attendants, Huntsmen, Whippers-In, Grooms, Stable and Kennel Boys, Earth Stoppers—the first cost of Hounds and Horses, Salaries, maintenance and support of the whole, and lastly, a considerable surcharge in the article of Housekeeping, arising from the addition of Company, which the keeping a regular Pack of Hounds necessarily induces. These are cogent reasons for committing the honour of keeping Hounds to those of superior Estate, and for the encouragement of Subscription Packs.

The necessity has been before urged, of a Gentleman himself understanding the business, so to express it, of Hunting, in order to its being conducted in a superior style. But opulence and the enjoyments it presents, bring on an indolence of mind, which is often inimical to those very enjoyments. Many Gentlemen will not take the necessary pains to understand thoroughly, those pleasures and diversions, of which from inclination and habit they are in constant pursuit; the consequence of which is imperfect enjoyment, frequent disappointment, loss and chagrin; the only resource, a necessary and voluntary submission to profligate and careless Servants. The secure method for the Gentleman is, to be extremely particular as to the Characters and Abilities of his principal Servants, to go so deep into the System as to see that, in ex-

Engraved by J. Scott from a Painting by J. Barrenger.

Published by Sherwood Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Nov. 1, 1817.

EARTH STOPPING.

ternal appearance, all is fair, and that his Hounds equal others in reputation; and at the end of the year, to have personal, not second hand satisfaction, as to the total of the Expence, and of, at least, all its most material items.

A few lines of Admonition to young Men just entering the Field, and to others who may have galloped over it some time, with more ardour and eagerness than reflection, and without any fixed rules of conduct, will not be held altogether superfluous. Before a young Man commences Fox Hunter, and in order to his making a respectable figure in the Field, it is necessary in the first place, that he should know something of the Horse, and have a good Seat on Horseback. Such knowledge will be attained by his own practice, compared with the Instructions of our best practical Writers on the subject. With respect to the LEAP, flying and standing, the Horseman should practice at the Bar, and the Fences in his way, upon a steady Leaper, that he may have dependence upon himself, in his Leaps, and be master of his positions corresponding with every motion of the Horse. From defect of attention to these considerations it is, that so many get the laugh of the knowing ones against them, in Hunting. It has been said, and well said—if it be worth while to do a thing at all, it is worth while to do it well. The Seat on Horseback in the Field, is not always so well attended to, as it might be, and it is really a matter of regret, to see a good Horseman in other respects, with an awkward Seat, and yet such an apparent contradic-

tion not seldom occurs. For example, I once knew a young Man, who hunted a Pack of Hounds not many miles from Wm. Crane, as good and bold a Rider, as any in England, yet who had the confirmed habit of thrusting his foot through the Stirrup-irons, and pointing his toe, in a straight line to the Earth; an awkward and burlesque method of placing the foot, which many Horsemen acquire, and which may even be seen copied in Pictures.

As to dashing at strong and difficult Leaps, it may be a proof of a thoughtless hardihood, in a Sportsman not yet seasoned, but not of a becoming discretion, since it is no disgrace for him to leave such honours of the Field, to those of longer standing. It is with painful sensations, which length of time has not been able to remove, that I recollect the fate of a gallant, high-spirited and social young Man, of two and twenty, who fell a sacrifice to a spurious ambition of distinction of this kind. He ran his Horse at a Leap, which every one else in the Field refused, and which his wiser Horse, although a thorough Leaper, refused also. He turned the Horse, which being again strongly urged, took and cleared the Leap, but in landing on the other side, came down upon his Rider, who receiving a fatal internal injury, never spoke afterwards. Mr. Beckford very justly observes that, the Accidents, which occur in Hunting, are very few, comparatively with those which happen from the use of the Gun; and a spirited and judicious

Rider, well mounted, incurs none other in the Chase than fair and necessary risks.

It is the common complaint of real Sportsmen, that many Persons come into the Field with no other idea of Hunting, or view, than of having a merry rattle up and down, among a Collection of Dogs and Horses, and of giving their Horses a brushing Gallop across the Country. It is said also, truly, and often peevishly enough, on the same authority that, *there is a proper place for every Man in the Field*, in which, if he be not found, he had far better be found at home on more suitable business. *This is the very place, which a young Sportsman should task himself to find, as early as possible.* It is a very vexatious thing, for a Man to find himself joined with an unskilful, or careless Partner at Whist, when there is any considerable interest in the Game; but still a higher degree of vexation for either Master or Huntsman, who is seriously and ably engaged in the complicated and difficult task of thoroughly and well hunting a Pack of Hounds, to be thwarted and crossed, and the Pack of Hounds confused, by a parcel of mad-headed and scampering Blunderers. Every one's reason will suggest to him the readiest way to find *his proper place*. It is, to keep within due bounds, that overflow of the Animal Spirits, which never fails to be excited on the first view of the Hounds, the Horses, the Company, Attendants, and all the pride, pomp and circumstance of glorious Huuting!—but which

on the first Halloo! is so apt to exceed all bounds, and to be sublimed almost into madness. Can it possibly be otherwise? "How musical their tongues!—Now, as they get nearer to him, how the Chorus fills! Hark! he is found!—Now, where are all your sorrows, and your cares, ye gloomy Souls? Or where your pains and aches, ye complaining ones? one Halloo has dispersed them all—What a crash they make! and echo seemingly takes pleasure to repeat the sound. The astonished Traveller forsakes his road, lured by its melody; the listening Ploughman now stops his Plough; and every distant Shepherd neglects his Flock, and runs to see him break. What joy! what eagerness in every face!" To watch studiously the motions of the Huntsman, and the conduct, whilst the Hounds are drawing the Covers, of those who are distinguished as the staunchest Sportsmen, afterwards bearing them Company in the Chase, as closely as ability will permit, is the true mode of acquiring experience. But at no rate, ever afterwards, should ambition be suffered to outrun knowledge in its career, and to infuse a desire to supersede the Huntsman in his vocation. Some Gentlemen are apt to have too much tongue, a proof of spirit and animation, no doubt, but not quite so much of keen attention to the matter in hand, the business of the Chase. *Fresh Men*, in riding a-line with, and after the Hounds, without pressing too closely upon them, do no harm, when they cannot be expected to do

good. Steady Sportsmen only, who know both the Hunt and the Country, can *skirt*, or cross and ride wide of the Hounds, with the view of being serviceable, as well as of sparing their Horses; when this is aimed at by the unskilful, they often head back the Fox, and throw the Hounds out. Gentlemen of experience should not ride too close and sociably together, as they are accustomed to do, but spread more, and keeping down the Wind, each do his endeavour, by his observations, to further the Huntsman and promote the Sport of the Day. In arriving at a difficult Leap, which it may not be prudent to take, less time is lost by dismounting at once, than in riding up and down after more practicable places.

A HUNTSMAN should always be close to his Hounds. At going out to hunt, the place of the first WHIPPER-IN should be at some distance before the Hounds, and that of the *second* WHIPPER-IN, a small distance behind them. I have already spoken of the necessary Qualifications of a Huntsman, and that he ought to have a powerful, sonorous, and taking Voice, with the sense to know when to make the most liberal use of it, and when silence is his proper characterestic. For an under or assistant Whipper-in, any young and active Person will serve, who has been accustomed to Dogs and Horses. The head Whipper-in is a Person of more importance, and in fact, ought to equal the Huntsman in knowledge of the Sport, as he will probably exceed him in labour and activity.

He should be a capital Horseman, and be thoroughly well mounted. At the same time, a strict discipline is absolutely necessary, that the Whipper-in be in all respects, under command of the Huntsman, or confusion must necessarily follow. He must always maintain the Huntsman's *Halloo*, and stop the Hounds that divide and run from it, getting immediately forward with them to the Huntsman. His station whilst drawing the Covers, is always on the side opposite to the Huntsman, to whom he is near enough, being within hearing of his *Halloo*, which is the Signal he is bound by his duty to obey. The second Whipper-in may be stationed near the Huntsman, where he may *Halloo* and smack his Whip, as such services may be required. Mr. Beckford, who seemed strongly impressed with the importance of the Duties of a first Whipper-in, thus describes the chief of them—" while the Huntsman is riding to his head Hounds, the Whipper-in, if he has genius, may shew it in various ways; he may clap forward to any great earth, that may, by chance, be open; he may sink the Wind to halloo, or mob a Fox, when the Scent fails;—he may keep him off his Foil:—he may stop the tail Hounds, and get them forward; and has it frequently in his power to assist the Hounds, without doing them any hurt, provided he has sense to distinguish where he is wanted the most. Besides, the most essential part of Fox Hunting, the making and keeping the Pack steady, depends entirely

upon him; as a Huntsman should seldom rate, and never flog a Hound.—In short, I consider the first Whipper-in as a second Huntsman; and, to be perfect, he should be as capable of hunting the Hounds as the Huntsman himself."

A Pack of Fox Hounds, to merit the epithet *capital*, must have been originally entered to *Vermin* Scents only, assiduously and strictly broken from off *Hare* and *Deer*, and gradually purged from *Bablers* and *Skirters*, and those plodding Hounds which tye upon a Scent, or are too slow or too old, to sustain the Character of the Pack, which now so much depends on Speed. I conceive Mr. Beckford must have been rather sanguine in his expectation, that this improved Breed of speedy and high-spirited Hounds, could by any means, be steadied into *Stop Hounds*, or made to stop at the smack of a Whip, in the very act of seizing their Prey, as Buck Hounds are. There is naturally, I apprehend, too much riot in the former, which it is indeed necessary to keep down by constant Work through the Season, in order to preserve the Pack not only in a due state of discipline, but of wind, if their best performance be expected. And the necessity will be apparent, on every intermission occasioned by bad weather, or other accident, after which the Hounds will not for some time, recover their usual style of hunting. Equal ill effects must be expected to arise, both to the Hounds and Horses, from the fatigue and over straining of long and harassing Chases. They can-

not be expected to perform well, immediately after such, and the time necessary for their recovery again, as necessarily renders them pursive and out of condition. Hence no doubt can be entertained, of the preference due to short and dashing runs, with *blood*, supposing them to continue an hour or two; nevertheless our emulous Sportsmen are ambitious of a long run, to prove their own, and the courage and game of their Horses and Dogs, and to furnish romantic matter for the conversation of a jovial Evening. Hounds that kill but seldom, become dull and discouraged, and hunt every succeeding day, with less ardour and inclination, and merely as a labour, to which they are urged by the efforts of the Huntsman; frequent blood is therefore highly necesary, not only on this account, but also as the only mean to keep them staunch to their proper scent.

Change of the Hunt, that is, losing the hunted Fox and hitting upon a fresh Scent, is an accident which must sometimes unavoidably happen; and the remedy must depend more upon the skill of the Huntsman, than upon the goodness of the staunchest Hounds. The leading and best Hounds will, but not with certainty, hold to the first Scent, whilst the bulk of the Pack will be sure to follow the fresh Fox. It will remain with the Huntsman to judge, as to the probable chance of success, in continuing to hunt the fresh Scent; and success being probable, that measure certainly ought to be pursued. I rather doubt the parallel in the case,

between the Deer Hound and Fox Hound, as stated by Mr. Beckford, who observes—'Could a Fox Hound distinguish a hunted Fox, as the Deer Hound does, the Deer that is blown; Fox Hunting would then be perfect.' I apprehend the Fox, in this case, to be in the condition of a Deer which is *not* blown; and that were he in the condition of a Deer *blown*, Fox Hounds would hold to the Scent of him, in preference to any other which might cross them: also that the occasion sometimes occurs, of Deer Hounds changing from one Deer to another: in both cases I should judge, rather from loss of the first scent, than inability to distinguish. In a distracting variety of Scent from the great quantity of Game, and in the early part of a Hunt, the best Hounds may divide, in spite of the most skilful and spirited management.

Mr. Beckford is averse from having any fixed Hunting Days, on account of the uncertainty of the Weather; but as of two evils we are to chuse the least, perhaps the risk of the weather is of less consequence than that of the risk of a want of Company, of Friends and Associates in the Chase. In this light the matter seems to be generally viewed. The appointed hour then having arrived, and the Company elated and big with expectation, ranging up and down the Cover side, the Huntsman, placing his *Adjutants*, the two Whippers-in, to the right and left, wide of him, attentive that a single Hound be not left behind, throws off the

Pack into Cover, and causing them to draw up the wind, that the Hounds may have every advantage, the only *law* in Fox hunting, the aim of which is decidedly *to find and kill.* Now is the time for the Whippers-in to be strictly attentive to the Voice and motions of their chief, the Huntsman, to be ready to encourage and push on, or rate the faulty Hounds, to see that they spread the Cover thoroughly and draw well, without a single babble or proof of idleness, remaining unnoticed.

During this interesting and anxious interval, all should be left to the Huntsman, the proper place for the Gentlemen Sportsman being yet by the Cover side, or if they choose to enter the Cover, it must not be to interfere, but to remain in a state of *quiet* circumspection, and by no means to halloo too soon, which will generally occasion the Fox, if unkennelled and on the pad, to turn back again and hold to, instead of breaking Cover. The Fox may range the Cover for a considerable time, either from being headed by the too great eagerness of the Company, or from the excellent and steady drawing of the Pack giving him no fair opportunity to break, which he will not do if he can avoid it, whilst he finds the Hounds too near; when he does break off, it will be most likely down, or side of the Wind. The Huntsman in the mean time, quarters his Hounds, leaving no part of the Cover untried, until Reynard's Quarters becoming too hot for him, his cunning instantly gives way to

Engraved by J. Scott, from a Drawing by J. Barrenger. Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Feb.y 1. 1818.

BREAKING COVER.

Engraved by J. Scott, from a Painting by J. Barrenger.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Dec. 1. 1817.

THE CHACE.

his more pressing fears, and off he goes! Now for Gone away! and the Halloo forward! and for as much noise and dash as any Gentleman may choose to indulge himself in—the loudest may weary both Echo and himself before he can now do any harm. The Halloo—Gone away! should be loudly and repeatedly given, that the Sportsmen who have remained without, may have timely notice of the Hounds leaving the Cover.

The Huntsman now keeps close to the leading Hounds, the Whippers-in bringing up the rear. All Sportsmen who are *able* and eager to promote the business of the Chase, should keep an attentive eye on the Leaders, that should they lose the Scent, it may be guessed how far they have carried it. The length of the Chasewill depend on the distance the Fox may be able to maintain from the Hounds; if considerable, and he be strong, he will run straight an end, and bravely determine to beat them at a long Chase by his stoutness and Game. A Fox of this kind, in the middle of the Season, unkennelled perhaps at noon, after being refreshed by many hours repose, will run a thirty or forty miles Chase, putting to the severest test, the Speed and Game of the best bred Hounds and Horses which the Country can furnish. The View Halloo will inspire the dullest Souls, and is particularly delightful to those, with whom the Sport is new. Or the Hounds may gain upon the Fox, and stick sc close to him, as to render it impossible for him to use any stratagem, but being obliged to run,

after a burst of half an hour, or an hour's Chase, he is overtaken and killed. Or it may happen after a burst of a few miles, the Fox will suddenly stop to a new Fence, and return upon his Foil. The Hounds will then overrun the Scent, and come to a check. This is the time for a general stop—Gentlemen seasoned to the Sport, and knowing the Country, should now spread and place themselves wherever the eye of experience can be most effective, and their Juniors' place is as near to the Huntsman as possible, where they may wait in *silent* expectation of the result. The Huntsman in this, as in every other Chase in a similar predicament, should remain sitting quietly upon his Horse, and attending to those Hounds, on the staunchness and fineness of nose in which, he has the greatest dependence, making in the mean while, the best use of his judgment, as to the course which the Fox may have taken, in case of his being obliged to make a Cast with the Hounds. Left to themselves, and receiving all possible encouragement from the Huntsman and Whipper-in, the Hounds will discover in a reasonable time, whether it be possible for them to regain the Scent; should that appear hopeless, and not one Halloo to be depended upon, be heard, the Hounds must be cast, and the business of finding again, commences. It should be taken for granted however, that the instinct of a steady Hound, is a more sure dependence, than the judgment of the most experienced Huntsman, therefore, it is not accord-

Engraved by J. Scott from a Drawing by J. Barrenger

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Feb. 1. 1818.

THE DEATH.

ing to the law of true Sporting, to cast Hounds which are able, and shew a decided inclination to hunt, and whilst they spread widely, and cast themselves.

The Death of the Fox, and concomitant ceremonies on that exulting occasion, cannot be more truly described, than in the words of the weak and unfortunate *Cowper*, that melancholy proof of the triumph of debasing Fanaticism over reason, genius, and common sense—of a man who, had his mind possessed fortitude sufficient, to excite a rational contempt for his *blind guides*, equal to that which he seemed to express for Fox-Hunting, might have joined Hunting and other Amusements, with his poetical pursuits, and passed a life of health and happiness, instead of sinking into a state of pitiable wretchedness, from merely imaginary and panic terrors and ridiculous anticipations. In a Letter to Lady Hesketh, says the Poet—" Having an opportunity to see a Ceremony, which I was pretty sure would never fall into my way again, I determined to stay, and to notice all that passed, with the most minute attention. The Huntsman having, by the aid of a Pitchfork, lodged Reynard on the arm of an Elm, at the height of almost nine feet from the Ground, there left him for a considerable time. The Gentlemen sat on their Horses, contemplating the Fox, for which they had toiled so hard; and the Hounds, assembled at the foot of the Tree, with faces not less expressive of the most rational delight, con-

templated the same object. The Huntsman remounted; he cut off a foot, and threw it to the Hounds—one of them swallowed it whole, like a bolus. He then once more alighted, and drawing down the Fox by the hinder legs, desired the people, who were by this time rather numerous, to open a lane for him to the right and left; he was instantly obeyed, when throwing the Fox to the distance of some yards, and *screaming like a Fiend*, "*tear him to pieces!*" at least *ten times*, repeatedly, he consigned him over absolutely to the Pack, *which in a few minutes devoured him completely*. Thus, my Dear, as Virgil says, what none of the Gods could have ventured to promise me, Time itself, pursuing its accustomed course, has, of its own accord, presented me with. I have been in at the Death of a Fox, and you know as much of the matter as I, who am as well informed as any Sportsman in England."

The above is a true picture of a most curious scene, and as at present managed by persons of a refined and right way of thinking, a perfectly harmless one; one which, however, cannot fail to occasion serious reflections. The wild and savage air and attitude, his fierce and goggle eyes, and the infernal *Screams* which issue from the brazen throat and leathern lungs of a Fellow of the right stamp, exhibit the truest possible representation of the ferocious and savage nature of the ancient Chase, and its thirst for vengeance and blood, the same passion specifically which inspires the breasts of

Beasts of prey. This indiscriminate mixture of Sport, and Cruelty, and Vengeance, has, in former times, excited the most extravagant and profligate acts. By this unclean spirit was actuated, the *Lord Raymond Venous*, who burned alive thirty of his finest Horses by way of a frolic! and no doubt danced around the flaming pile with the most frantic gestures and cries. The same fury inspires our London *Sunday* and *Market-Day* Bullock Hunters, and the Bull *Hankers* of certain Provincial Towns, even in the Year of our Lord 1817! This is said without the most distant idea of disparaging or condemning the *fair* Fox Hunt, or even witnessing the tearing to pieces, amid frantic Screams, an Animal which Nature has taught to exist by similar acts. This is not *dragging* a Fox to death, by a lengthened and barbarous process of torture, but dispatching him in the most expeditious manner, the instant he is taken.

A few general Observations, chiefly from Mr. Beckford, whose text need seldom be enlarged, and can as seldom be improved, must conclude the Fox Hunt. COURSING the Fox with Greyhounds and Finders, has been proposed; but I never saw such a thing, excepting the accidental finding of a Fox whilst looking for a Hare. The general result I apprehend would be, that the Fox would be chopped at his first breaking cover, or soon lost.

The Sport of the day materially depends on the *first* and *well* finding the Fox, on which Sportsmen are generally in too great a hurry to make good

speed. The pleasure is greatly enhanced, when you get up to his Kennel with a good drag, the Chorus of the Hounds increasing as you proceed, inspiring feelings which thrill to the very marrow, and which no language can describe. Your Whipper-in may perchance, be a man of too great susceptibility of these fine feelings, and thence urged by the enthusiasm of Halloo forward, to leave part of his Hounds behind him in Cover. This should be strictly looked into by the Huntsman, and prevented in future. Hounds left at large, are liable to acquire all sorts of bad habits, to run at any blood they can find, and so lose all sense of discipline. Lying abroad by night also occasions them to take cold, and puts them out of condition. Instant search should be made, and proper measures taken when Hounds are missed.

Hounds in course, hunt best in the Country which they know, whence in a scarcity, it is better to bring Foxes to a Country than to go in search of them. The Fox Hunt does less harm to cultivation than any other. A Country, however, is soon known to a good Huntsman, and Foxes generally follow the same track, the Wind being in the same quarter, rendering it easy for the Whipper-in to make a short cut and find the Hounds. With a high scent, you cannot push forward too much. Screams, Halloos, and the Horn, keep the Fox on, and prevent his recourse to stratagem, and also keep the Hounds together, letting in the tail Hounds. Noise and rattle, at

other times so preposterous and mischievous, on this occasion, form part of the Sport, which they greatly enliven.

The Pack should run in a good style, as nearly as possible together, and carrying a good head; but I think Mr. Beckford not quite correct in the supposition that, "there is little difference in the speed of Hounds of equal size," since we often find some of the first size among the tail Hounds. They should not run in a string, some lagging behind, tying upon the scent, and *running Dog*, that is, merely following the leaders, but each emulously striving to get forward. They should not creep through a Fence which they can leap, but dash over it gallantly together, one of the most beautiful spectacles in Hunting.

Under the circumstance of various Scents, and when the Hounds divide, and it is quite uncertain which is the hunted Fox, let the Whipper-in stop those Hounds that are farthest down the Wind, as they can hear the others, and will reach them soonest: it is useless to attend to stopping those that are up Wind. In dry weather, Foxes, particularly in heathy Countries, will run the Roads. If Gentlemen will then ride close upon the Hounds, they may drive them miles to no purpose, and without any Scent. High-mettled Fox-hounds are seldom inclined to stop whilst Horses are close at their heels.

The running of Sheep and the chattering and pursuit of Birds, will often give indications of the

point of the lost Fox. It may not be amiss, to advise Sportsmen to use less eagerness and passion in their enquiries, inspired by which, and supposing every Fellow or old Woman they meet, must necessarily be equally interested and alive to the business of the enquiry as themselves, they fail to make themselves understood, and generally lose time by being in too great hurry.

When Hounds are no longer capable of feeling the Scent, all rests with the Huntsman; either the Game is entirely given up, or is only to be recovered by him, from the effects of real genius, spirit, and observation. In the case of a lost Fox, the discovery of the course he has probably taken will depend on observation and experience in a Man naturally qualified; just as one Man will excel another, in finding the right road across a Country, among the confusion of a number intersecting and crossing each other. When Hounds are at cold hunting, with a bad Scent, it is then a good time to send a Whipper-in forward; if he can see the Fox, which by the by is not very probable, a little *mobbing* may be allowed.

The greatest danger of losing a Fox is at the first finding, or when he is sinking; at both times, he will frequently stop short, and the Hounds, in their eagerness, will over-run the Scent. When a Fox is first found, every one should ride behind the Hounds at a reasonable distance, until they have well owned the Scent, and are settled to it. A Fox seldom, or never, but from necessity, ap-

proaches a Gate, either to leap or creep under it. The Company should be silent whilst the Hounds are killing the Fox. It is not in every hunt that the Custom prevails of *treeing* him, or that they celebrate the *Orgies of screaming* over his mangled carcase. It is, however, not only a stimulating ceremony, but has its use in giving time for all the Hounds to come in, and enjoy their share, and also to recover their wind. They must yet not be kept baying the suspended Fox too long, for fear of cooling that appetite and voracity, with which it is expedient they should devour him.

If a strong Cover be full of Foxes, and they are often hallooed, Hounds will seldom take much pains in hunting them; hence arises that coldness and indifference, which sometimes may be perceived in Fox-hounds, whilst pursuing their Game. Otherwise, and when a Fox holds to Cover, and the most vigorous and persevering efforts of the best Hounds and Terriers cannot force him to break, the only resource left is *mobbing* him out, in which all sorts of noises with the Voice and Horns, are allowable. A circumstance of this kind happened within my memory, in a strong, extensive and thick Cover, to as good a Pack of Hounds as any then in England, which were engaged by a Fox throughout the whole day, and the Hunt *adjourned* till the following morning, when they unkennelled him the first half hour, and killed him after a run of nearly forty miles. Generally, Hounds should not be often called

from the Scent, their proper pursuit; for if disturbed and hallooed too frequently, they from habit expect it, lose that natural dependence which they ought to have upon their Nose, and come at last, to hunt like Greyhounds, with their Eyes and Ears. You may as well at once teach them to wait for a *Soho*, as to be constantly hallooing them, which, however, is the practice of conceited and half-bred Huntsmen. All things are good for something, so both Skirting Hounds and Horsemen sometimes prevent a Fox from stopping and finding a new Cover; and even Babblers have their use when a *Mob* is wanted.

Should Foxes acccumulate too much, in one quarter, an uncommon thing I should suppose, at the present time, let the Covers be drawn daily, by a few Couples of any Dogs that will hunt, during a week or ten days; such a disturbance will not fail to disperse Foxes thenceforth, over perhaps thirty or forty miles of Country. But a scarcity seems more probably to have taken place, as I understand from *Castang*, the Dealer in London, that a considerable number of Foxes have been imported from the Continent. If necessary to BREED Foxes, a *Fox-Court* should be prepared, securely walled in, and open above, the floor well bricked or paved, with boarded shelter, and hiding places. Foxes must be kept very clean, with plenty of water, fresh and fresh. Birds and Rabbits are their usual food, which may be first *killed*, provided they are given immediately. Horse-flesh, if given

fresh, and not to excess, agrees very well with them, and will not give them the *Mange*, to which, like other Dogs, they are subject. The Cubs may be turned abroad as soon as able to shift for themselves, but must be regularly fed; that is to say, victuals left for them, where they are likely to find it, for some time.

Hunting Bag-Foxes is one mode of spoiling Hounds, and indeed is of no use, unless merely with the view of blooding the Dogs. In fact, it is not fair sport; the Animal has not his natural chance, being depressed in strength, spirit, and his proper qualification—turned out a stranger in the land, not knowing whither to go. A Bag-Fox, brought from a considerable distance, will remain in a good Cover.

Mr. Beckford quotes an instance of a Gentleman, who, not content with the scent which a Bag-Fox would afford his Hounds, made the addition of pouring a whole bottle of Aniseed upon the Fox's back! A coarser joke than this, was practised two or three years since, near Stanhope, in the Bishopric of Durham, as I was informed by a Friend from that County, and which might have had tragical consequences. Some thoughtless Wags rubbed the shoes of an eccentric *Tailor*, with Oil of Aniseed, and sent him forward on some sleeveless errand, on the road which a Pack of Hounds were to take to Cover. The Hounds immediately clapped on the Drag, to the astonishment of the Huntsman and Whipper-in, who were not in the

secret, and soon *found* the affrighted Snip, whom they would assuredly have torn down and devoured, Goose and all, but for the utmost exertions of the Whip, and 'ware Tailor!

If practicable, let the Huntsman begin drawing *at the farthest Cover down the Wind*, and continue drawing from Cover to Cover, *up the Wind*, till he find: the Covers will so, be drawn in half the usual time, and people cannot fail of finding their proper places: less difficulty will occur in getting the Hounds off, and as the Fox will most probably run the Covers that have been already drawn, there will be no fear of change. It is seldom of use to draw Hasle Coppices in Nutting time, since they have been already disturbed. The same may be said of Furze Covers, and two or three year old Copses, in the Pheasant Shooting Season; although at other times excellent kennel for Foxes. At Christmas and afterwards, when Foxes are most wild and strong, and young Copses are bare, the most likely kennel is in those of four or five years old, and furzy at bottom. In these, the Huntsman must draw quickly, and up the Wind, unless the Cover be too large, when it is preferable to cross it, and give the Hounds a side Wind. Horns are perhaps not so much in use as formerly; but it is certain, Hounds attend to no sound more attentively, than that of the Horn, and Horses are particularly inspirited by it. In an extensive Cover, the Huntsman should know beforehand, that part of it, in which it is likely the Fox is en-

kennelled, and throw in the Hounds thereabouts, or it is obvious, Reynard may have too far the start of them. Foxes by no means *always* go down Wind to their kennel.

Whippers-in must always be prepared to keep the Pack under command; for example, if it be determined that they are not to go into a Cover; since otherwise, Fox-hounds will instantly dash into the first Cover they come to. Draw distant Covers, when out for a day. The Covers near home being preserved, form a resource for late hours; and being left undisturbed after Christmas, Foxes will resort to and breed in them; besides, will find a comfortable resource in your Poultry! Too sanguine Sportsmen should be warned, that it is never worth while to go out in bad Weather; few Seasons but, with perseverance, afford enough of good, in which, by the conclusion, to work up both Hounds and Horses. When the Scent lies badly, or in short, in such days as in which the Dogs seem absolutely devil-hunted themselves, and can neither hunt nor run, and such sometimes occur, the best mode is to return home, and take the chance of a more fortunate day.

In a country where are large earths, a Fox which is at home, knows and tries them all, giving a good hint to a Huntsman. A tired or *sinking* Fox will lie down or skulk any where. It should be remembered, and prevented by the judgment of the Huntsman, that Hounds are apt to run *the heel*, where Foxes are in plenty, that is to say, run the

back instead of the forward scent of the Fox, into which error the Dogs are misled, when one is up the Wind and the other down. When a Fox runs his foil in Cover, if all the Hounds are suffered to hunt his scent regularly, they may hunt on till they tire themselves, and to no better purpose. Mr. Beckford, in this case, advises stopping the tail Hounds, and throwing them in at head; which also, may little mend the matter. The only resource in the case is, I believe, to mob the Fox out of Cover, by any means which can be put in practice, or be content to leave him there.

In making a Cast, let it not be too wide, which will lose time, and fatigue the Hounds; but in an open Country, the Casts must be necessarily wider than in one which is enclosed, or Woodland. Do not cast through, but round a flock of Sheep, the Whipper-in driving them counter, or they will run on before the Hounds. If the Fox shall have been headed back, in course, the Hounds must try back. When Hounds are divided into several parties, the play is to halloo forward with the first Fox that breaks; it is ever most satisfactory to the Hounds.

Never suffer conceited Huntsmen to take out lame Hounds, under the notion that they won't mind their lameness, after they shall have become warm. Granting they can do any good, which is seldom the case, it generally ruins them. Still less suffer the abominable practice of hunting young Hounds in Couples, in which you may have the pleasure to see them hung across a hedge

a style, grinning at, and tearing each other. They may be held coupled together, by the Cover side, with much propriety, until the Fox be found.

As to digging an earth, first of all, be satisfied that the Fox has really taken to it, or you may dig for hours, and at last, like Mr. Beckford, find that, your Terrier has been setting a Rabbit. A Fox does not always take to the first earth he reaches, or he may enter, and leave it immediately. Never suffer a Hound to be put into an earth, to draw a Fox, which is most cruel and useless, as the Hound generally gets maimed by it. Digging on, until so near to the Fox, that he may be tempted to seize on a Whip handle or Stick, will make it safe and convenient for a Dog to draw him. Badgers should not be encouraged in Woods and Covers, as they make strong earths, which are difficult and expensive to stop; and unstopped, are destructive of Fox Hunting. Both these and Foxes, may be stunk out of earths with *Sulphur* and *Assafœtida.*

A late STEEPLE CHASE.—On the subject of this valorous and hardy achievement, there are now two opinions. Some hold these Heroes in high estimation, and aver that, their example is a great excitement to courage and gallantry, and the contempt *of whatever may befall;* others insist that, fool-hardiness never shews a salutary example; that *nought is never in danger*, and that it is of the smallest possible consequence to the World, whether a Man of this kidney, break his neck or

return with it whole. Leaving the decision of this knotty point to Casuists, clerical and lay, I shall simply state the fact. "A Match of one hundred Guineas aside, was ridden on Tuesday January 6, 1818, by *Mr. R. Melprop and Mr. Arnold*, of *Stainford Hill.* The Parties started from the *Coleshill Hut*, about six miles from Watford, Herts, to cross the Country *as a Crow would fly*, to a House of *Mr. Arnold's*, four miles from *Wade's Mill*, the distance computed at *twenty-six miles.* Notwithstanding the foggy Weather, Mr. Arnold performed his task, in *one hour and fifty-two minutes*, having been obliged to swim a River in his Course. Mr. Melprop was beaten by two hours, losing much time in crossing the River. Neither took to a road for a yard, but to cross it, and some daring Leaps were made without accident." *County Herald.*—As I have already observed, we have had occasional, but few, revivals of this old practice, the chief misery of which is, the risk of crippling and condemning to a painful existence, the noblest and best Animals in the Country.

I hasten to avail myself of some curious information, contained in a most interesting little Book from the Press of Messrs. Nichols and Co. written by the Rev. William Chafin, of Chettle, in Dorsetshire, a Gentleman of a well known old Sporting Family, who has hunted with the Rushmore Buck Hounds SEVENTY years, and still lives to describe with spirit, and that which is still better and of far greater consequence, with a spirit of discrimination

and humanity, the Adventures of the Chase! From this Gentleman we learn, how SUMMER HUNTING, or hunting the *Buck*, to which his Family seems to have been much devoted, was managed in the Reigns of Charles and James II. and from thence Mr. Chafin seems to infer that, in those days the Summers were much hotter, than they have been in the greater part of the last Century. Their time of Meeting was invariably at four o'clock in the Evening, and the Custom of the Sportsmen seems to have been that, of taking a slight repast at two o'clock, and to have their dinners at the most fashionable hours of the present Day. He observes that, Hunting in the Evening, was certainly a well-judged measure, and advantageous in every way. The Deer were at that time, upon their Legs, were easily found, empty, and more able to run; as the Evening advanced and the Dew fell, the Scent gradually improved, and the cool Air enabled the Horses and the Hounds to recover their Wind, and to go through their Work without injury. The Evening, however, is the time peculiar to Buck Hunting; for although the Stag Hunt be a summer Diversion also, the Chase is generally much too long to be ventured on, unless the Sportsmen have the whole day before them. Buck Hunting, it appears, was so fashionable, and so generally delighted in at that period, that even the Judges on the Circuit, were accustomed to partake in this Sport. Mr. Chafin gives the following account of a very excellent

and well hunted Pack of Fox Hounds, which in all probability, as he observes, were the Progenitors of the superior Packs now found in the North.

"I believe that the first real steady Pack of Fox Hounds established in the Western parts of England, was by *Thomas Fownes, Esq. of Stepleton*, in Dorsetshire, about the year 1730. They were as handsome, and fully complete in every respect, as any of the most celebrated Packs of the present Day. The Owner, meeting with some worldly disappointments, was obliged to dispose of them; and they were sold to *Mr. Bowes*, in *Yorkshire*, the father of the late *Lord Strathmore*, at an immense price for those days. They were taken into Yorkshire, by their own Attendants, and, after having been viewed and much admired in their Kennel, a Day was fixed for making trial of them in the Field, to meet at a famous Hare-Cover near. When the Huntsman came with his Hounds in the Morning, he discovered a great number of Sportsmen who were riding in the Cover, and whipping the Furzes as for a Hare; he therefore halted, informed *Mr. Bowes* that he was unwilling to throw off his Hounds until the Gentlemen had retired, and ceased the slapping of Whips, to which his Hounds were not accustomed, and he would engage to find a Fox in a few minutes if there was one there. The Gentlemen Sportsmen having obeyed the orders of *Mr. Bowes*, the Huntsman taking the wind of the Cover, threw off his Hounds, which immediately began to fea-

ther, and soon got upon a Drag into the Cover, and up to the Fox's Kennel, which went off close before them, and, after a severe burst over a fine Country, was killed to the great satisfaction of the whole Party. They then returned to the same Cover, not one half of it having been drawn, and soon found a second Fox, exactly in the same manner as before, which broke Cover immediately, over the same fine Country: but the Chase was much longer; and in the course of it, the Fox made its way to a Nobleman's Park, I believe *Lord Darlington's*, which was full of all sorts of riot, and it had been customary to stop Hounds, before they could enter it, which the best mounted Sportsmen attempted to do, but in vain; the Hounds topped the highest Fences, ran through Herds of Deer and a number of Hares, without taking the least notice of them; ran in to their Fox, and killed him some miles beyond the Park; and it was the unanimous opinion of the whole Hunt, that it was the finest run ever known in that Country. An ample Collection of Field Money was made for the Huntsman, much beyond his expectations; and he returned to *Stepleton*, in better spirits than he left it, and told his story as above related, in which we must allow for some little exaggeration, very natural on such an occasion." This indeed, is Fox Hunting History teaching, by examples, and if old, affords a lesson not inapplicable at the present Day.

With my Contribution of food for the Mind of

the Sportsman, not to be unmindful of his Body, let me have the honour of introducing him once more, and yet perhaps not for the last time, to that excellent Prescriber and Caterer, *General Lord Coleraine*, in whose useful Book, p. 143, will be found the following famous *relish*—

"Gentlemen Sportsmen! I have led you into the Field, and now I will regale you in it: let some one come to you, at a particular appointed place, about two o'Clock, at noon, with a few bottles of mild Ale, Bread, and sufficient of the following Meat, for yourself and friend. It is thus prepared. *Take a fine Round of Beef, four ounces of Salt Petre, three quarters of an ounce of Allspice; rub them well on the Beef, and let it stand twenty-four hours; then rub in as much common salt as will salt it. Lay it by twelve days, turning it every Day; then put it into a Pan, such as large Pies are baked in, with three or four Pounds of Beef Suet, some under, some over. Cover it with a thick Crust, and bake it for six Hours. It will keep for two Months.* It is called Sportsmen's Beef; and most excellent it is."

OTTER HUNT.

THE BEAVER and the OTTER are, I suppose, *Species* of the same *Genus*, and although it be said that, the former was found in this Country, in ancient Times, the fact appears rather problematical, the Animal described being perhaps the *Otter*.

Although the Otter has long ceased to be in any great plenty in Britain, enough yet remain to render them perfectly well known. At no period having been a universal or favourite Hunt, little, indeed no attention has been used, to preserve the breed; on the contrary, with some few exceptions, Hunting the Otter has been pursued, full as much with the view of extirpation, as of the diversion it affords. The Otter is amphibious to a certain degree, but loves to lie dry, in a cunningly contrived *Couch*, under ground, the small and con-

tracted mouth of which may be found in the midst of a thick bush; or sometimes it is made in the hollow trunk of a Willow, or even on the top of a Willow Pollard. Being alarmed, the Otter always takes to the Water. It breeds once in the Year, bringing, rather late in the Spring, four or five *Cubs* at a birth. Frequenting narrow Rivers, large Pieces of Water and Ponds, these Animals are greatly destructive of Fish; and were they to get a haunt upon land, would be equally so of Poultry, their prey being similar to that of the Fox and the Weasel, which last the Otter resembles in form. It has been found occasionally, some miles distant from Water, no doubt in pursuit of its land prey. Its weight is from eighteen to thirty, and even in rare instances, forty Ponnds; flesh of a fishy and coarse flavour, rarely eaten, with the exception of the *inwards*, of which the *heart* is said to be a dainty. The *Skin*, killed in Winter, when in perfection, and carefully dressed, proves a most durable, soft, and pliant leather, making the best of Gloves, and such as will bear to be wetted beyond any other. This Animal is naturally playful, and may be bred up tame, and made use of for the purpose of catching Fish, of which there are various instances related; but that which is more curious, if true, it is reported to have accompanied Otter Hounds in their Hunt of its own kind. The Otter is found in nearly all cold and temperate Climes.

The Otter is taken by Nets and by concealed Traps, and was formerly, and such instances have

occurred even lately, to the shame of the present Generation, kept for the cruel and infamous purpose of being BAITED. An example of this kind occurred in 1816, in Leicestershire, where the wretched Animal was horribly tortured during three days, and a Man of the name of *Mee*, was ignorant and insensible enough to boast of it as a diversion, in the *Sporting Magazine*, and even to implicate the respectable name of *R. Chesslyn, Esq.* of *Langley Priory*. *Mr. Chesslyn*, utterly uninformed of the barbarous transaction, with the utmost propriety and regard for the duties of Humanity to Animals, stated his reprobation of it, and called the person first mentioned, to a proper account on the Occasion. For the particulars, the Reader is referred to a Letter, signed *Vox Humanitatis*, in the Sporting Magazine for June 1816.

On the kind of Dogs best adapted to the Otter HUNT, let us in the first instance, have the Poet's advice, in whose time, this Hunt was far more common than at present:—

> "The deep-flew'd Hound
> Breed up with care, strong, heavy, slow, but sure,
> Whose ears down-hanging from his thick round head,
> Shall sweep the morning dew; whose clanging voice
> Awakes the mountain echo in her cell,
> And shakes the forests." SOMERVILE.

Any strong and high-couraged Dogs, however, which will take water readily, may answer this purpose; and perhaps none better than the larger

Water Spaniel and the Newfoundland Dog. The Otter is naturally courageous, and, like the Badger, a terribly sharp biter. The Male is said, like the Fox, to die bravely, uttering no cry or complaint, but the poor pregnant Female, being mortally wounded, emits a piercing Shriek. A SPEAR is generally employed in this Hunt, which the Hunters should acquire a dexterity in throwing at the Game, when under Water; but some object to its use, as interfering with the superior diversion experienced in the Hunt by the Hounds. The Spear commonly employed has two tines, with shoulders, which are intended to inhere in the Animal's flesh, when struck, and to hold him. A caution is necessary, that unskilful persons be not too busy in handling these Spears, since it has now and then happened, that a Hound has been desperately wounded by them. It is easily known if any Otters *holt* in a River, or Piece of Water, and not difficult to find. The *Seal* or footing will appear upon the mud and soft ground, and the *Spraintes*, or Ordure, will be discovered on the Banks, as the Otter always comes to land, or leaves his *Couch* to evacuate. The remains of his fish meal also, sometimes discover him. The Hunters customarily divide, some on each side the River, beating the rushy and sedgy Swamps; these failing, the Game may have *couched* at considerable distance from the borders of the Stream. The Otter, whilst swimming, exposes only the tip of his Nose above water, and when pursued in that Element, by the

Hounds, dives very deep, appearing again, to *vent*, or take breath above Water, at a considerable distance. If seized by a Hound, he is capable of pulling the Dog under water, and would probably drown a small or weak one. Being speared or wounded in the Water, he instantly makes for the land, and bravely combats the Dogs, often severely biting and crippling the boldest of them, before he is conquered.

> "Lo! to yon sedgy bank,
> He creeps disconsolate; his numerous foes
> Surround him, Hounds and Men. Pierc'd through and through,
> On pointed Spears they lift him high in Air;
> ———————— Bid the loud Horns
> Proclaim the Spoiler's fate; he dies, he dies!"

Such is the Ceremony, at the DEATH OF THE OTTER. On some Occasions, this Hunt has afforded great Sport. In 1796, near *Bridgenorth*, in *Salop*, on the River *Worse*, four Otters were killed, one of which stood three, another, four hours before the Dogs, and yet scarcely a minute out of sight. In April 1804, the Otter Hounds of *Mr. Coleman*, of *Leominster*, killed an Otter in a Mill Pond, which weighed thirty-four Pounds and half, supposed to be eight years old, and to have consumed a Ton of Flesh annually, for the last five Years. The Season of frost and snow, is fatal to these Animals, which then collect, and remain together, and are easily traced and taken with even a single Dog. Upon the *Fobbing* Marshes adjoining the *Thames*, in *Essex*, the *fleets* having been long frozen, a Party killed nine Otters in a Day.

VERMIN HUNTING.

VERMIN HUNTS.—It is a thing to be noted that, *Gervase Markham*, in winding up his Chapter on Hunting, classes together the *Fox* and *Badger* Hunts, speaking of them as of minor and petty consequence, compared with those of the *Deer* and *Hare;* and that he is entirely silent on hunting the *Otter*. Thus our Fox Chase probably, although by degrees growing into consequence, did not absolutely take the lead and acquire its present ascendency, until the early part of the last Century. Markham's words are—"Now for the Hunting of the *Fox* or *Badger*, they are chases of a great deal lesse use or cunning than any of the former, because they are of much hotter sent, as being in-

tituled stinking sents, and not sweet sents, and indeed very few *dogges* but will hunt them with all egernesse; therefore I will not stand much upon them."—

The LESSER CHASE, *la petitte Chasse*, includes the BADGER, MARTEN CAT, and SQUIRREL; the POLECAT and STOAT also claim a place as *Vermin*; as to the WILD CAT, a Chase of some name in ancient Records, the breed seems now to be extinct in our Country, not so much belike, as one being left even in *Cheshire*, to teach the people how to grin.

The purpose of the Vermin Hunts, is either for entering young Hounds and Terriers, or for the extirpation of the Vermin. The BADGER and progeny, are styled *Boar*, *Sow* and *Pigs*. Like the Otter, this animal is an inhabitant of most cold and temperate Climates. The Badger breeds once a Year, in the Spring, producing four or five *Pigs*, occasionally more. He is two or three feet long, and weighs from fifteen to thirty odd Pounds. In form, he is Tortoise shaped, and apparently unwieldy, with strong Bear-shaped Legs, the fore ones, I believe, the longest, and the Claws exceedingly strong and sharp. In various instances of nature and habit, he resembles the Bear—in his feet and claws, somnolency, proneness to obesity, attachment to his young, reciprocity of attachment in the young to the old—in short, *Bears* and *Badgers* are naturally privileged as Animals of great merit in essentials. His Teeth are the Terror of

his Enemies. There exudes from his Body *e tergo*, a white liquid substance, it is said, of a most devilish smell, a property also in the *Hyæna* and in most Species of the *Weasel* kind. The flesh of the Badger is eaten in many Countries, more in China than elsewhere, where indeed, it may be presumed, they would eat the Devil himself could they catch him; at any rate the Court Party there, were it only out of *rivalry* to their old Enemies, the Roman Catholic Missionaries. I have heard of Badger *hams* in our own Country, as superior in flavour to those of Pork, but cannot speak by word of taste. But why not, at least, equal?—since the Badger's food is roots, grass, and fruit, together with reptiles and insects, and he feeds far more delicately than the Hog; no rule to be depended upon, by the by, since were we to feed a Cat upon fine flour, green peas and whip syllabubs, I apprehend, we should fail to make her flesh equal to House Lamb. Actual experiment, however, is the test. The Fat, Skin, and Hair of the Badger, are in great request. He is a most effective and expeditious Delver, forming his *Souterrein*, or habitation in the Earth, into several Apartments, to which one entrance only, leads. He is extremely cleanly, never defiling his burrow, of which the Fox, in want of a kennel, is said to take a cunning advantage, by rendering his Neighbour's House too unsavoury for his delicate sense of smelling. The Badger has been accused of destroying and preying upon Game, and even sucking

Lambs; but I have never witnessed myself, nor ever heard of any proof of such fact.

Let me contribute my mite, with the humane Mr. Daniel, in defence of this persecuted Animal, the immemorial Victim of unreflecting, sottish, and cowardly barbarity. He is in his nature, perfectly harmless and inoffensive, equally susceptible of domestication with the Dog or Cat, and when tamed, kind and playful, but has been selected, like his companion in misfortune, the Bull, on acconnt of his great strength, courage, and powers of defence, for the purpose of *Baiting*. Badgers are caught and sent up to London, and baited in the neighbourhood of Smithfield, in Houses which are the known rendezvous of the very scum of Thieves and Blackguards, with which the Metropolis abounds. There the wretched animals are kept, covered with wounds, until misery and exhaustion deny them farther powers to combat. One peculiarly horrible instance of insane barbarity, occurred in this purlieu of *Sodom*, some years since. The Fiends had procured a poor *Hedge-hog*, and not knowing any other mode of making *diversion* with it, threw it upon the fire, and whilst it was consuming, danced around, enjoying the luxury of hearing its piercing Screams!

On the mention of the Hedge-hog, it may be observed that, a dispute has long existed as to classing him with mischievous Vermin, or otherwise. It has been generally supposed, and never yet authentically disproved, that the Hedge-hog feeds

entirely upon the fruits of the Earth, with the addition perhaps, of insects; but yet suspicion has long fixed upon him, with no great probability indeed, the charge of sucking Cows, and a late discovery is said to have been made in Dorsetshire, of his killing Birds and even attacking Poultry. The latter at any rate seems unlikely, and additionally so, that it should ,not have been discovered long since. However, granting all this, it only remains to destroy these Animals *fairly*, without entertaining prejudice or aversion to them, for following the dictates of their nature.

To the fair hunting of the Badger, there can be no objection, whilst other Chases are in practice, and whilst the necessity exists of preventing a too great multiplication of the breed. To those who are fond of witnessing the combats of Animals, this Hunt affords a rich treat, in fact such is the chief motive; and I shall not attempt to sermonize against it, always supposing no unfairness, or barbarity towards the Victim.

The Badger Hunt.—The Badger, still more strictly, I believe, than the Fox, confines himself to his earth, in the day time, seeking his food by night. He seldom travels above a mile or two from home, and generally to open pastures, and feeding grounds, in which the dung of the Cattle being turned over, is a sign the Badger has been there; or when heaps of moss appear collected in Cover, the *fiants* of the Animal being also observed. His earths are generally in dry ground, at the roots

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Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Jan. 1. 1818.

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of Trees, or at the Base of a Bank or eminence. The only Badger Hunts, of which we have any account in Books, are by *Moonlight*, when the earths are stopped, excepting one or two, in the mouths of which, sacks exactly and strongly fixed, are placed, the sacks having a drawing string, more certain than a hoop, which compresses the mouth closely, on the Badger having entered and strained with his weight and struggles. The placing these sacks being finished, a signal is given by horn or whistle, to throw off the Dogs, usually two or three couples. The Dogs then draw in a circle of a mile or two, and the Badgers alarmed, instantly make for the earths, which for the most part, they reach in spite of their pursuers, and are far oftner *sacked*, than taken or killed by Dogs in the night-time. The Dogs best suited to this Sport, in which speed is not required, are *Terriers* of the strongest and boldest kind, and those now made use of, are of the cross between the Terrier and Bull-dog, on which sometimes tough leathern Collars are put to defend the neck.

The Badger thus taken, is too generally devoted to the unfair purpose already decried, but in a few instances, a Sack-badger has been turned off and hunted. I have some, but an indistinct recollection, from the distance of time, of a Badger Hunt in the Day time, upon a firm soil, where fresh earths could not speedily be made, all those which were known, having been carefully stopped the preceding night, and several lanterns with long

and large lighted candles placed in particular parts of the Cover. A Sow and Boar, and one or two young, were found in the morning, the Hunt continuing some hours, collecting together almost all the Inhabitants of the Neighbourhood. The old ones made such terrible play, and so thoroughly engaged both Dogs and Men, that the *pigs* escaped. The Badger receives his enemy, lying on his back, in which position he can best guard himself, and use his teeth and claws. In this position, he shews an activity and nimbleness, not at all indicated by his progressive motion, and his skin being loose, it is very difficult to inflict a deep wound, or even to bite through the skin only, from its toughness and substance, and the length and coarseness of the hair with which it is covered. It is sufficiently apparent, how inadequate young Dogs must be, even the best bred, for such an encounter. Notwithstanding these great powers of both offence and defence, the Badger like the Otter may be killed by a single stroke forcibly given upon the Snout.

There is a *rum* old Story in print, to prove the reasoning faculty and power of mechanical contrivance in this Animal. When a Couple of Badgers, we are informed, undertake to dig them a habitation in the earth, having proceeded to a certain depth, and the mould incommoding them, the one turns belly upwards, when the other loading, turns it into a wheel-barrow, and drawing it out by the Legs, thus clears their way, as any other

intelligent labourers would do! No doubt the original Reporters of this, actually saw it, either in a moonshiny night, or a sun shining day. All agree that the Badger has more common sense than ever to have *judaized*, and that he is a great lover of *Pork*, which in course is the best bait, or lure for him, in the business of TRAPPING. They are caught by deep and covered *Pit-falls* in their paths, and by the well known and generally tedious method of *digging*; in which last, unless staunch *Terriers* perpetually impede them at their labour, they will in light earths, bury themselves more quickly than pits can be sunk, in order to confine them to an angle. *Sacking* them, already described, is certainly the best method.

The MARTEN CAT, it is observed by the Rev. Mr. Chafin, has become scarce in his Vicinity, on account of the breed having been made too free with, for the advantage of their skins; there were however, not many years since, a considerable Number of them in *Essex* and *Suffolk*. The *Pine-Martin*, the most valuable, is said to be found at this time, in the Pine Woods of *Scotland* and *Wales*. This Animal is no doubt the best for the purpose of entering young Fox Hounds, in the respect of teaching them to run Cover, since when *untreed*, it will run the thickest bushes by choice; not so with respect to its *scent*, which is sweet, in course quite different from the vermin scents.

The Marten, in the old *slang*, which has been gradually dwindling away, but a reasonable sprink-

ling of the terms of which, still retains its hold on modern custom, is styled a *Cub*, until a year old, thenceforward a *Marten*. Might we not be permitted to call a litter of them—*Kittens?* This *Cat* has the body of a *Weasel*, with the head and tail of a *Fox*, excepting the ears, which are rounded. Its common length from nose to tail, is about a foot and half, and its bushy tail nearly a foot long. In form and action, it is elegant and sprightly; the colour dark tan, with a white throat, the belly of a rufous or dusky brown, the legs and upper sides of the feet, a Chocolate brown, the lower sides are covered with a thick ash coloured down, like that below the external coat of the other parts of the body. The whole Coat assumes a lighter hue in Winter, and in old age, the Animal is nearly ash coloured. The unctuous matter exuding from certain glands near the *anus*, in this Animal, which indeed may be styled the *Civet Cat* of the North, is a perfume, although so excessively offensive in most of the *Weasel* tribe; the skin and excrements also of the Marten Cat, are of a musky scent. This sweetness of the skin greatly enhances its value as a *Fur*, a thing not of any great consideration with respect to our home breed, since we must necessarily depend on the importation of Furs. The Marten is an inhabitant of the Woods, breeding in hollow Trees, and taking shelter in the Winter Season in the nests of Magpies and the larger Birds. Martens have four to seven or eight young. The Pine-Marten is said to build its nest in the top of Trees.

Their food, game, small birds, poultry, and for want of these, rats, mice, moles, and also grain. They are reported, like the Bear, to have a great relish for honey, and I have known Bee-hives overturned and robbed, the suspicion alighting on the Marten or Polecat. The Marten is said to be the natural Enemy of the common Cat, and that when these *Greeks* meet, the *tug* never fails to be mortal, and the Marten is generally the survivor. They are dreadful enemies to Pheasants, pulling them down at roost, and if suffered to encrease near a Preserve, would soon thin the most abundant. Like perhaps all, or most other wild Animals, they may be tamed and domesticated, as has been said of the Fox; but they retain a certain occasional savage capriciousness, which would perhaps pass off in a few generations.

The Marten when hunted, will sometimes run many miles, at least engage the Dogs a considerable time, shewing great Sport. In his course he takes many opportunities to climb Trees, and recover his wind, the Hounds baying him, until he is frightened or cudgeled down, when he shews an almost miraculous agility, for although he frequently alights in the midst of the Pack, and each Hound mad to catch him, he is very seldom so caught, and his escape is greeted with a merry and loud general Halloo! He cannot well however escape finally, but at his death, if not too much exhausted, never fails to leave to the most forward Dogs a good legacy by *will* written on their noses,

in very legible characters. The Marten is said, like the common Cat, to be lured by *Valerian*, of the truth of which, I have some reason to doubt, but no right to speak with decision; however the baits and traps, made use of to take or destroy Martens, may be sprinkled with it, and it may be also scattered near them.

The WEASEL, STOAT, and POLECAT, are *Vermin* better known than valued, in most Countries. There is a gradation of *size* between the three, the Weasel being the lowest upon the scale; and if we take the word of a French Lady, *Mademoiselle* de *Laistre*, who fell in love with one, or of *Strozza*, who wrote an Elegy upon the death of another, they are a most charming and engaging race of four legged People, which, did they but *stink* as sweetly as the Marten Cat, would be richly worth preservation, domestication and education. Hear the Italian Poet, *Strozza*, in the elegant version of *Doctor Shaw*.

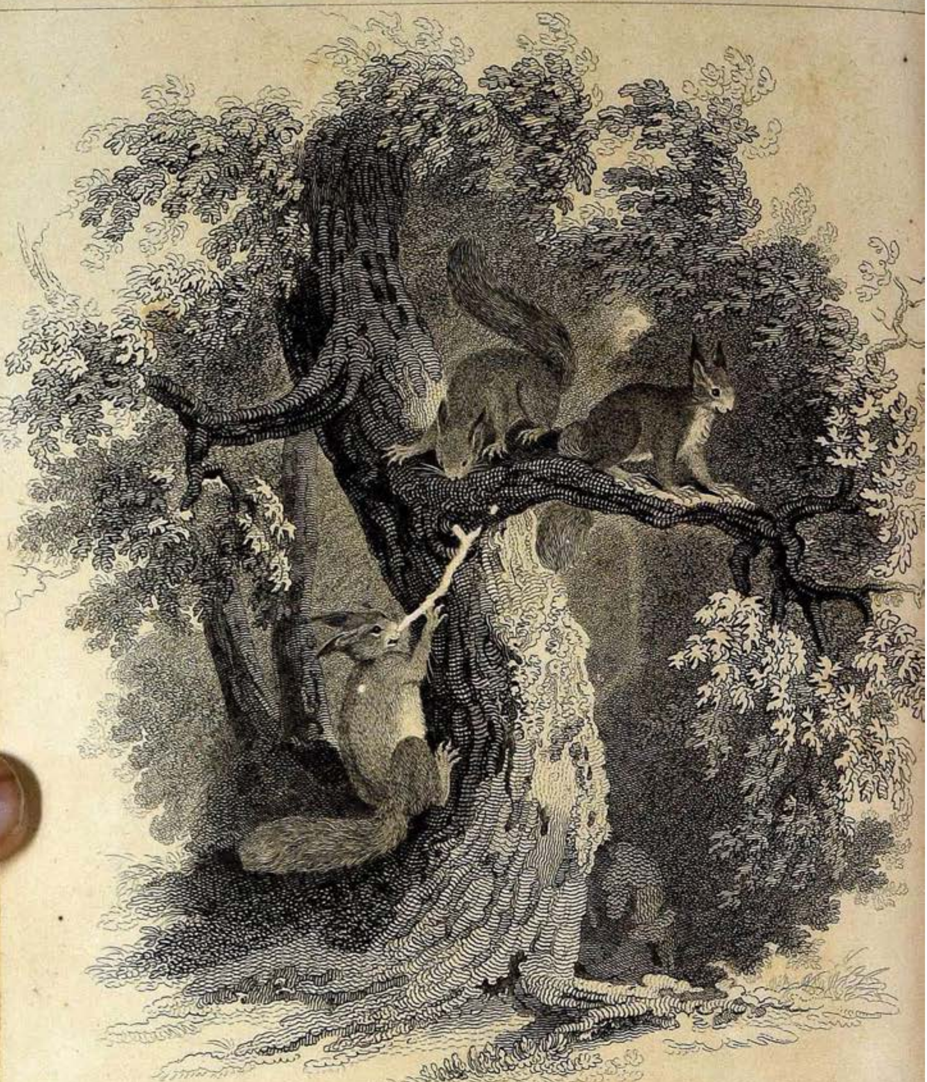
> Loving and lov'd, thy master's grief!
> Thou could'st th' uncounted hours beguile,
> And nibbling at his fingers soft,
> Watch anxious for th' approving smile:
> Or, stretching forth the playful foot,
> Around in wanton gambols rove,
> Or gently sip the rosy lip,
> And in light murmurs speak thy love.

To be serious, the French Lady's account of the manners, the playfulness and the attachment of her tame Weasel, to be found in *Shaw's Zoology*,

must be extremely interesting to persons of sensibility. Belonging myself to the unfortunate Class of those, who love and pity the Brute Creation, I must pretend to an affection equally sincere for my *Cat*, as ever was entertained by the Lady or by *Strozza*, for their Weasels. The *Ferret*, a well known Species, or Variety of the same Genus as the Weasel, is also a playful and caressing Animal.

The WEASEL is of a pale red, or yellowish brown colour; under the neck and belly entirely white, with a brown spot on each side the mouth below; eyes black and lively, ears small and rounded: in length about seven inches, the tail between two and three inches. Its haunts are cavities under the roots of Trees, and in Banks near running water. It moves with unequal and sudden springs, its whole body being endowed with extreme flexibility. She litters in a hollow Tree, or in a concealed corner of some lone out-house, bringing seldom more than half a dozen young. The STOAT, or ERMINE of Europe, a larger Weasel Variety, since custom has placed the terms Weasel on the highest ground, measures in length of body nearly a foot, the tail being about half that length, and its tip or extreme end, always black. Northwards and in Scotland, the Stoats become white, and are called white Weasels; but their furs are in this Country of little worth, compared with those imported. This Animal will hunt upon the drag, with its Nose to the ground, like the Spaniel or Hound, and run down a Rabbit, when making a

sudden spring, the Stoat fixes on the back of its prey, and sucks its blood. The *haunts* of the Stoat are similar to those of the Weasel, with the exception that, it confines itself, more to the Fields, seldom visiting the habitations of Man. The POLECAT, on the contrary, greatly infests Country Dwellings, especially where, no uncommon case, the Inhabitants are commendably indolent in the destruction of Vermin. This wild Cat will range over the roofs of Houses, and skulk in any convenient hiding-place to be found in Country premises. From the suppleness and elasticity of its back bone, which it elevates for the occasion, in order to augment its projectile force, it is able to take surprising leaps. The largest sized are nearly two feet long, in body, exclusive of half a foot of tail. In colour, the Polecat is of a deep black tan, sometimes varied. His Ears edged with white, and white round the Muzzle. As to the *aura* which issues from his body, a repetition of the old Proverb is sufficient—*he stinks like a Polecat.* His Fur is much esteemed, particularly if killed in the Winter Season. He will burrow beneath the roots of Trees, or the foundations of Barns or Ricks, and produces three or four young at a litter in the Spring. The Polecat will thrive in a Land overflowing with Milk and Honey, for both which he has such a relish, as to make him very bold and adventurous in his visits to the *Dairy* and *Apiary*. If it be desired to root out a Warren



...aved by T. Ranson from a Drawing by L. Clennell. Published by Sherwood Neely & Jones Paternoster Ro...

SQUIRRELS.

of Rabbits, the most effectual method is to encourage the breed of Polecats.

These Vermin are truly Beasts of Prey, greedy of blood, voracious and insatiable, as appears by the number of dead carcases of their prey, which have been found in a single Den. Would it be worth while to tame the Stoat, as we have the Ferret, for the purpose of hunting *Rats* and *Rabbits?* The Vermin under consideration, are the only Beasts of Prey, remaining in *Albion*, and like the *Wolf* heretofore, they might be extirpated, but such a general measure might not be politic, on account of their use in destroying other Vermin, Rats and Mice especially, far more destructive than themselves. The true method then, to be taken with them, as with ROOKS and SPARROWS, is carefully and with perseverance, to defend that from them, which we want ourselves, a measure of double advantage, by also increasing the usefulness they really possess, as making it necessary to them, to feed still more upon the under Vermin.

SQUIREL HUNTING is a childish and mean diversion. "All the Sport (says a Gamekeeper) consists in hunting them from one Tree to another." These sprightly, thrifty, and generally harmless little Animals, make their *dray*, in a thick fork of a Tree, their Winter Provision of Nuts and Acorns being deposited in hollows; and the mighty *sport* is to drive them from these comforts in the severe Season!

The BAITS used in trapping the above Vermin,

are pieces of Pheasant or Wood Pigeon, salted Pork, Offal, or Red Herrings half broiled, *trails* being made with the entrails of Rabbit or Chicken. Though they suck living blood, they are said to eat no flesh until it has putrified. There is no necessity for the use of *living* baits, always a needless and monstrous cruelty. As to the Traps, Gins or Nets used, or the method of using them, scarcely any part of the Country is without skilful Practitioners in that line; to dilate on such topics, would therefore be merely useless repetition. Enquirers will find *Secrets worth knowing* in *Lord Coleraine's* Book, already so often quoted: and although it cannot be said that, he has invented

> ——— a planetary Gin
> Which Rats will run their own heads in,
> And come on purpose to be taken,
> Without the expence of cheese or bacon—

it must yet be conceded, that the General is a *Rat-Catcher*, of no ordinary *calibre*, and might not improbably, be of some use in a certain great place, where *ratting* is said to prevail to a shameful extent, by unkenneling and unmasking the Vermin.

THE GAME LAWS.

HUNTING.

The common Law allows the Hunting of Foxes, Badgers, and such like noxious Animals, in the Grounds of any Person, and excuses a Trespass done in Pursuit of the same, provided no more Damage be done than is necessary and inevitable, and that it be done in the usual and ordinary Manner. Term Reports, 1st vol. p. 334.—But in Hunting such noxious Animals as the Law allows to be pursued through the Grounds of Others, the Sportsman is not justified in Digging or Breaking the Soil to unearth them: which if he does, he will be subject to an Action of Damages. Rolle's Abridgment, vol. ii. p. 558.

With respect to the Commission of Trespass in the Pursuit of Game, it signifies an Entry upon the Ground of another Person, without his Permission, or contrary to his express Order; and doing some Damage to his real Property, for which a satisfaction is recoverable by Action, according as the intent of the Trespass was wilful or inadvertent.

A Trespass is *wilful* where a Sportsman has been forewarned not to come upon the Land; and such notice continues in force during the Life of the Person to whom it has been given, unless the Manor changes its Lord, or the Land its Occupier; in which cases a new Notice is required, in order to constitute a Trespass. From the Landholder or Lessee, a verbal Notice is sufficient; but from a Keeper of a Manor, a written Notice is necessary; which Notice is generally to this effect:

To Mr. ——

I hereby give you Notice, that if you Hunt, Hawk, Shoot, Fowl, Course, Fish, or use any other method to destroy the Game upon any of my Lands, Manors, or Royalties within ———, in the County of ———, I shall deem you a wilful Trespasser, and proceed against you as the Law directs.

(Name.)

(Place and Date.)

Landholders or Lessees, as also the Keepers of Manors, may demand the Name and Residence of a Sportsman, or a view of his Certificate.

And Landholders or Occupiers of Land, may forbid their Landlords, as also the Lord of the Manor, from Sporting on the Ground which they occupy, unless the Landlord has reserved in the Lease such a privilege, or that the Lord has a grant of Free-Warren.

THE TURF.

Here we raise Horses, that in speed outstrip
The Winds: go seek the Plain which the *Devil's Ditch*
Divides; a Field with slender verdure green.
Behold the Signal given! Forth from the Goal
Starts the resounding Horse, and on his back
Firm sits, light load, the Jockey, jerkined neat.
See, he devours the Plain, the verdure's top
Scarce touches, swift as Hawk or Swallow flies;
That, when approaching nearer to the end
Of the *long Course*, then headlong he may seem
To rush, and gain new vigour as he goes!
Then, neither lungs, nor any nerve, he spares!
His belly now appears to touch the ground,
And now he seems fleet as the Wind to glide.
Blood mix'd with sweat flows quick adown his sides;
His lips are wet with foam; with open throat
He drinks the Wind: and from his nostrils wide
Issue, with sobs and pantings, curling smoke,
While through his body every vein distends.
Quicker and quicker now his light hoof strikes
The Glebe, and now with love of nearer palm
Of Victory he glows: while passing by
His several Rivals, how his heart exults!

Resound with shouts of Men, the smack of Whips:
The Goal the Conqueror wins, but by a *Neck*,
And quick he bears away the *Royal Plate*.

Philos. & Prac. Treatise on Horses.

The above description of a Race was translated by *George Dyer*, from the latin of *Lord Hampden*, in the *Britannia*, a splendid folio of the Noble Lord, printed and published in *Italy*.

Horse Racing may be traced from the very early Ages of the World, from the commencement of Civilization, and in Countries bordering on those, to which the *Courser* or *Race-Horse* is indigenous. They were celebrated in *Greece*, at the *Olympic Games*, with a splendour and magnificence, of which we have no parallel in modern Times; from motives of a more public and enlarged nature, than those by which the more modern Votaries of the Turf are actuated, and under conditions of difficulty and personal danger, from which the modern *Course* is totally exempt. Another varying feature is, that the Riders in those days, were not hired, as *Jockies*, but Noble and even royal Personages, or men of the highest distinction in the Country. In modern times, comparatively, few Gentlemen engage in a personal competition of jockeyship on the Course; in the ancient, none other were admitted to so high an honour. In the ancient Courses the chief view was military, and the excitement of a dauntless courage and exquisite skill in the management of

Engraved by J. Scott, from a Painting by J. Barringer.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Oct. 1. 1817.

RACING.

the Horse. As *Chariots* were then used in War, Chariot Races also, made an essential part of the Olympic Games; and the vast difference between the ancient and modern Race, and also the formidable difficulties and perils which attended the former, will be sufficiently apparent in the following Quotation.—

"The Races of the Ancients were not only superior to those of modern Days in national consequence, and in the magnificence and splendor of their celebration, but also in the skill required of the Jockeys, or rather noble Competitors, for they consisted of the first men of their Country, as has been said, and rode without either saddle or stirrups; and exclusive of the probability that, *crossing and jostling* were not forbidden, there seems to have been circumstances of difficulty in the Course, under which a degree of dexterity in the Rider, and docility in the Horses, totally unknown in modern Times, must have been absolutely necessary. But the Chariot Races, for which no motive seems to exist in modern Times, since these Vehicles have been long disused in War, must have been attended with constant imminent danger, and repeated break-neck accidents. Contrary to modern usage, which clears the Course of every possible danger of embarrassment, that of the Ancients was beset with artificial difficulties, in order to prove the skill of the Riders or Drivers, and to enhance the honour of the victory. The sharp turns which the Chariots were necessitated to make, driving to

an inch at full speed, put the skill of the Drivers, and the docility and suppleness of the Horses to the severest tests, and fatal accidents to life and limbs of both Men and Horses, too often happened from the rush together at the turn, and contention for the nearest approach to the Pillar, against which the Chariot of a too adventurous or intemperate Driver, was sometimes dashed to pieces."—*Lawrence's Hist. and Delin. of the Horse.*

The distance ran by the Horses, appears to have been upwards of four miles to a heat.

The Romans obtained from Greece, a knowledge of the Sciences, and of the ornamental, as well as useful Arts of Life; among others arose, at Rome, the *Certamina Equestria*, or Horse and *Chariot* Races of the Circus, upon the Model of the Olympic Games; for although the Romans did not adopt the use of the ancient Chariot in actual War, they preferred it in their Games, to the race with single Horses. The Horse Races however, of both Greeks and Romans, in respect of speed as the chief object of cultivation, seem not to have entirely coincided with the modern Race; since we are gravely told that, in a Race for Mares, styled *Calpe*, at the *Olympic* Games, it was the Custom for the Riders, as they approached the ending Post, to leap from the backs of their Mares, and keeping the Bridle in hand, to run in with them!—and in the *Certamina* at Rome, the Riders, sitting on the bare backs of their Horses, at full speed, performed feats of agility, leaping from

Engraved by J. Scott from a Painting by J. Barenger.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones Paternoster Row Dec. 1 1817.

GOING INTO COVER.

one Horse to another, picking up from the ground small coin, standing upright, or lying along the Horse's back. These Riders were called *Desultores* or Leapers, being doubtless Persons hired and trained to such purpose, and neither to be compared with those who rode at the *Olympic Games*, nor with the modern Jockies; but with the Actors at our theatrical *Circus*, the idea of which is derived from that of ancient Rome. The Riders at the ancient Games were obliged to undergo a thirty days preparation, and were subjected to certain laws and conditions appointed by the Judges; and the Victors, and even the Winners' Horses, were crowned amidst the enthusiastic shouts and plaudits of the Multitude; and upon the Victors, considerable rewards and honourable privileges were conferred. There is no existing evidence that, the Ancients entertained any correct or regulated ideas of the effect of *weight* upon the speed and powers of a Horse, whilst running his course. The crowd of Spectators at the *Olympic Games*, were dispersed on all sides, as upon a modern Race Course, but with a superior caution, the whole Course being surrounded with a substantial rope or cable. Stands were erected as at present, at the most convenient station for the Judges, and for other distinguished Persons. The racing breeds of Horses among the Ancients, were of those Countries bordering upon *Greece*, chiefly *Cappadocian and Phrygian*; but the superior speed and goodness of the Horses of the Desert, of the *Mountain Ara-*

bians and Barbs, does not appear to have been known, until lately discovered in this Country, which has in consequence produced Horses for speed and endurance, without parallel, in any other part of the World, or in any Age.

The great view of these ancient Institutions being the encouragement of superior breeds of Horses, and of the Art of Horsemanship, the Governments imposed corresponding obligations upon their wealthy subjects; injunctions no doubt most willingly complied with, from the universal attachment to the Horse, among the great and opulent, in all Countries. To come nearer to modern Times, the Emperor Constantine the Great followed the same politic and useful example, and under his auspices, the *Circus* and the Races were established at Constantinople, on the most magnificent scale, of which the ruins of the *Hippodrome* still visible, furnish an illustrious evidence. But the noble humanity of the Ancients, and of the Eastern Emperors particularly, to their Horses, must not be forgotten, although to our shame, it is no general practice among their modern Successors, in the Course. *Constantine* and his Successors, from time to time, issued Edicts to enforce the mild and proper treatment of Horses, throughout the Empire; thereby instructing their subjects in a branch of moral duty, indispensible to justice and humanity. It was made penal to strike a Horse with a club or unfair instrument, their Owners being enjoined the use of fair methods of correction; and such was

the grateful sensibility of the Ancients towards those old Racers, which had by their labours in the *Circus*, merited well of the Public, that they were maintained at their ease, during the remainder of their lives, as Pensioners on the public Treasury. These worthy Pensioners were styled by the Romans *emeriti*, or deserving their discharge and support.

The debates on *Lord Erskine's* late Bill, with its unmerited fate, place this enlightened Country in no enviable point of comparative view, with the rational philanthropy of the Ancients. This award is too well and too sadly confirmed by our universal conduct towards Animals, the Horse beyond all others, in our mode of treating which, justice and humanity bear no part, convenience and interest being all in all. Indeed what numbers are there among us, whether of Jack Ass Drivers, Gentlemen, Nobles, Princes, Priests, Deacons and Bishops, who can entertain no conception of the grounds, or propriety of sentiments like these. How often have we heard of a Man or a Woman, decked out with a great Name, and surrounded by a splendid Equipage, from a mere contemptible and farcical affectation of consequence, driving with a rapidity, by which the heart-strings of some of the poor Horses which draw them, are burst! Such instances are too common, as well as atrociously shameful. And that which places our character in another point of view, which I need not define, the above conduct seems not to be held inconsistent with the *beauty of holiness* and an ex-

alted reputation for piety. How often do we see the aged and crippled Steed, worn out in the service of opulence, consigned for the miserable remainder of his life, to the most painful and laborious drudgery, perhaps in the end, to death by actual starvation. I have seen a noble old grey Coach Horse of the highest form, which had been worn out in the service of my *Lord Bishop*, beating the rounds of the Lond[illegible] Repositories, and enduring all the tortures of the real Hell of Smithfield, condemned at last, painfully to finish his career in a Sand Cart: I have known Racers of high fame, the winners of thousands, administering through their best days, to the luxury and profligacy of their Masters, in their old age, sold for a trifling sum, and turned adrift to the same pitiless fate. It is not here intended to inculcate a principle to a punctilious and impracticable excess, but to recommend the exercise of a practicable and expedient general humanity: and the above examples of modern barbarism inevitably intruded themselves, in a discussion concerning distant Ages, which we triumphantly style *barbarous*.

The *South Eastern Horse*, or *Courser*, seems to have made his way into Northern Europe at an early period; previously even to the Era of the *Crusades*, from the accounts which have descended, of Studs of fine Horses, established by the German Princes, not however for the purpose of the COURSE, in which *Albion* was destined to be exclusively, the successor of *Greece and Rome*. It is not even

improbable that, *Britain* in reality took the lead in the improvement of the Northern Horse, since on the first arrival of the Romans, War Chariots with scythes affixed to the wheels, in the Eastern style, were found in this Country; with highly ornamented Horse furniture, and a breed of Horses, which from the description of their form and powers of action, may be fairly presumed to have had in them a mixture of Southern blood. The breeding Stock for this improvement, as also the custom of the War Chariot, might have been derived from *Tyre*, with which City it is known that, both the *Britons*, and the *Irish*, had a very early commercial intercourse. The *Anglo Saxon* Monarch *Athelstan*, who had a great and princely attachment to the Horse, farther improved the British Stock, by importations from the Continental Studs: and on the *Norman Conquest*, farther and considerable importations took place. One of the *Norman* Chieftains, *Roger de Belesme*, afterwards erected *Earl of Shrewsbury*, is said to have been the first, who imported *Spanish* Stallions into this Country.

So far, however, the improvement of the Horse was grounded entirely on military views, which continued throughout the whole period of that national *big-endian* insanity, the Wars of the *Red and White Rose*; a distraction, the recurrence of which in this Country, certain *Sapients* prognosticate to be upon the scale of possibility! Some Eastern Horses might have been imported during the *Crusades*, but in those times, and from thence to the

reign of the *Tudors*, a period styled by an Author often here quoted, the Era of *the great Horse*, the prevailing national objects of pursuit were Horses for War, and *Dexarii*, or those for the *Tournament* and *Parade*. In the History of those Times, we find no mention of *Horse Coursing*, unless it may be supposed that some diversion of that kind might possibly have had place at *Smoothfield* (now Smithfield) then a general weekly Mart for every Variety of the Horse in use, to which Persons of the highest rank resorted; young Men of the first families mixing with the sons of Citizens, in tilting Matches and mock Fights, after the manner of the Ancients.

It is somewhat curious that, a Diversion of such national consequence, as that of *Horse Racing* in England, should have so obscure an origin, and that we should be utterly unable either to trace with precision its commencement, or the names of those by whom it was first introduced or patronized. James I. was its first Royal Patron in England, but the Royal Jockey had been previously trained in his own Country, where Racing is recorded to have prevailed to such a ruinous excess among the young Nobility, as to require legal interference. It is however probable from *Blunderville*, a respectable black letter Writer on the Horse, that Racing had attained a considerable degree of consequence, and hold on the affections of persons of Rank more especially, in the Reign of Elizabeth. The Diversion of the Course, how-

ever, was not yet reduced to a regular System, but was perhaps generally practised by Gentlemen riding their own Matches. Hunting and Racing were also blended together, and the running of *Train Scents*, for considerable sums, formed a material branch of the latter. Thus we see, that which has been lately complained of, as an incongruous novelty, was really the original practice, and that in the days of *Elizabeth and James*, the highest bred and speediest Horses, were the Hunters in request. This brings us once again to the subject of the so much regretted *Old English Hunter*, in regard to which a late Publication puts an end to all misconception or difficulty, by exhibiting the Portraiture of one, the property of Lord Darlington. The shew of *racing blood* is visible in this Animal, from head to tail, and its appearance indicates a descent from half or three parts blood, on both Sire and Dam, the resemblance being striking to the stock of Norfolk and Lincolnshire, which are generally so bred. The regular *Wild Goose Chase*, from which we derive our *Steeple Hunt*, was run across the Country, and a singularly gross barbarity, befitting those times, attended such Matches—the beating or whipping up, the exhausted and failing Horses, by the Tryers or Judges. A Horse being left behind twelvescore, or any limited number of yards, was deemed beaten and to have lost the Match. On the whole, this seems to have been

an appropriate amusement for Savages, most deservedly long since out of date.

Such was the state of the *Turf*, or rather of Horse Racing in an irregular mode, at the Accession of James I. but whether that sage Monarch really found leisure from his more important studies in *Witchcraft and Theology and smoking Tobacco*, to bestow his personal attention on the concerns of the Turf, is not known; but his attachment to the Sport was conspicuous, and his patronage in all probability, considerable and effective. Races, then called *Bell Courses*, became general and national, and seem on the sudden to have assumed the same style and method as to essentials, as it is viewed in the present times. Regular Prizes were then run for, in various parts of England, but with most *eclat* in Yorkshire, where the principal Meeting was at Gaterly. In the vicinity of London, *Croydon* and *Enfield Chase*, were distinguished for the chief Race Courses, where the King and his Court frequently attended. *Newmarket*, notwithstanding its naturally high desert, had not yet attained the honour of being the modern *Olympia*, but its extensive Plains and elastic Turf had for Centuries, been the grand Theatre of *Hunting and Hawking*. I shall again avail myself of that practical Work already referred to, for a brief sketch of the existing state of Racing science and practice, at the period under consideration.

"How far the Science of Turf *Manége*, Arrangement and Wagering, may have been under-

stood and practised by individuals, previously to this period, is uncertain; but we know that it then became general, and accompanied with almost every circumstance of technical accuracy. Pedigrees were recorded and produced, to enhance the reputation and worth of those Horses, which were descended from Progenitors of known goodness, although it is not probable, that such a Race as we now esteem the only thorough breed, could at so early a period, have been obtained. Perhaps, any well shaped, active and blood-like Horses were then received as legitimate Racers. The training discipline in all its variety of regular food, clothing, physic, airings, gallops and sweats, were in full use, and indeed, always overdone. The weights were adjusted which the Race Horses had to carry, and the most usual weight was ten stone. Classical learning having long prevailed, the science of Pedigrees, and the regulated practice of the Course, had become familiar with Greek and Roman literature; but much has been superadded by English ingenuity; England is indeed the mother Country of modern Olympics."—*Hist. and Delin. of the Horse.*

The first ARABIAN Horse, which had ever been known as such, in England, was purchased by *King James,* of a *Mr. Markham,* a Merchant, at the very considerable price of five hundred Pounds. This is described as a little bay Horse of ordinary shape, in the Treatise of the *Duke of Newcastle,* who gives a verdict of *good for nothing* against the

Arab, because being trained and started, he could not race. In this verdict, *Berenger* also, concurs. But it is observed by the Author just now quoted —'the Gunner to his linstock—both the Noble Duke and Berenger, although excellent Riding Masters, were inferior Jockies, and unaware, that it is not the *forte* of the Southern Horse to run himself, but to get Runners.' The Duke from this instance, took occasion to doubt the relations, then already propagated, of the extraordinary powers of the Arabian Horses, which thenceforward, for upwards of a Century, seemed to have lost their reputation among the English Turf Breeders, in whose estimation, during that period, the *Barbary* Horse generally held the first place. It was not until the Reign of *Queen Anne*, when *Mr. Darley* sent over a real *Arabian*, which he procured immediately from the Desert where it was bred, that the Arabian blood gained that ascendancy of reputation upon the English Turf, which succeeding Importations have fully confirmed.

Some years previously to the Civil Wars, Racing had commenced at *Newmarket*, and formed part of the Spring Diversions in *Hyde Park*. English Horses had occasionally been in request upon the Continent, of which we have proof, even as early as the Reign of *Athelstan*; their fame now became blazoned in foreign Countries, and great numbers were exported, probably with the connivance of Government, such commerce being illi-

cit, to many parts of the Continent; the English method of managing Sporting Horses passing over with them, and receiving, in France particularly, considerable attention. That hypocritical Ape of Royalty, *Cromwell*, had, in character, his Stud of Race Horses, at the head of which in Sporting Story, stands *Place's White Turk*, so named from Richard Place, *Kinglet Oliver's* Studmaster. This *Turk* is not only memorable as a first-rate racing Stallion, but as forming the *ultima Thule*, the expression being allowable, of racing Pedigree; none being traceable beyond *Place's White Turk*, and his Contemporary and equal in fame as a Stallion, the *Lord General Fairfax's Morocco* Barb. The Author last quoted suggests that, should any of our old Racing Families have preserved Cups or Bowls, won in the Reign of *Charles II.* some discoveries of Pedigree, anterior to the *White Turk*, might be made from the Engravings on those Prize Cups.

Charles II. inheriting all his Grandfather's love for the Turf, and it may be presumed, possessing considerable skill in Horse Racing, soon after his Return, re-established the Races at *Newmarket*, which the Civil War had interrupted, dividing them into regular Meetings, and substituting both there, and on other Courses, silver Cups or Bowls of the value of one hundred Guineas, his Royal Gift, in lieu of the ancient *Bells*, which were then consequently dropped, both in name and effect. He also repaired the old Royal Hunting

Seat, at Newmarket, which, from his time, has been called the *King's House*, several of the Sovereigns since, having resided in it during the Meetings. From the example of *Charles*, a roya Racing Stud, with the appointment of a Master of the Race Horses, has been since kept at Newmarket, until its late discontinuance. Much of the Arrangement, and many of the Rules and Regulations of the Course, as they stand at present, had their origin during the Reign of Charles II. who was so earnest in his desire to improve this important and interesting Breed of Horses, that, he dispatched his Master of the Horse, either *Sir John Fenwick*, or *Sir Christopher Wyvill*, both of high Sporting reputation, into the *Levant*, then the great Mart for *Coursers*, in order to purchase Blood Mares and Stallions. Those imported were chiefly *Barbs and Turks*, and from the Mares, in Pedigrees styled *Royal Mares*, are descended many of the best Racers of the present time.

James II. was rather attached to *Field Sports*, than to the Turf, which however flourished during his Reign, in which our Pedigrees refer to a number of Stallions of great reputation. For an account and character of these, at different periods, I must refer the Reader to the *History and Delineation of the Race Horse.* William III. although no votary, did not discourage the Turf, but made an addition to the Royal Plates, and even, in imitation of the example of Charles II. sent his Studmaster *Marshal*, to *Barbary*, to purchase Horses,

in which he was successful. The Reign of Queen *Anne* was especially favourable to the interests of the Turf, not only that Princess appearing to inherit a Portion of her Royal Uncle's personal attachment to Horse Racing, but her Consort, *George Prince of Denmark*, being also an ardent Amateur. Through the interest of that Prince, several additional grants of Royal Plates were obtained. But the most remarkable and most interesting Sporting occurrence during that Reign, was the import of Mr. Darley's celebrated Arabian.

Towards the latter end of the Reign of George I. a very useful regulation took place, substituting purses of one hundred Guineas each, for the old Royal Plates. A considerable discount from the original value, always attends the Sale of Racing Cups and Plates; whilst the charges on breeding, training and travel, are certain and heavy, success on the Turf, uncertain. About that time the greatest number and Variety of foreign Stallions were kept in England—Arabians—Barbs—Turks—Persians—and an Egyptian; among which was the famous Godolphin Arabian. Since that period, Racers have been bred of the highest Qualifications, and the Turf System improved and humanized to a considerable degree. The Princes of the present Royal Family, most distinguished as Patrons and Amateurs of the Turf, are—*Duke William*, the Conqueror at *Culloden*—the late *Duke of Cumberland*—*The Prince Regent*—and the *Duke of York*.

The above outline of the History of the Turf, will serve to demonstrate that, as the Diversion of Horse Racing was peculiar to *Greece and Rome*, in ancient Times, so it has been the peculiar and exclusive merit of *Britain*, to follow, with varying views indeed, that classic model. Attempts, as has been already stated, were made some years since in France, and failing in the first instance, were afterwards renewed, to introduce racing upon the English System; but although the prospect of success in the most important point, that of breeding good Horses, was promising, the whole Scheme soon fell to the ground and was abandoned. The reason is obvious. There are not individuals enow in France, attached to the Sport, to constitute a *Racing Public*, or to make the pursuit national. The French are not a nation of Horsemen, excepting in a military view; those few excepted also, who visit this Country, and carry home with them the infection of the *Anglomania*, and they are few indeed. Not only the French but the Continental Nations generally, are *Riding School Horsemen*, and not Horsemen according to our *costume*, or manner, or objects, either upon the Turf, the Road, or in the Field. The North Americans, a majority of whom perhaps, are descended from this Country, have inherited the British partiality for the Course, and occasionally importing some of our best bred Stallions, they now boast a native breed of both *Gallopers* and *Trotters*, fully equal to those of this Country;

in speed and goodness; a pretension which I have no means to ascertain.

Horse Racing has been stigmatized as a most cruel diversion, its utility questioned, and the ruinous consequences of Turf *Gambling* incessantly painted in glowing colours. Far be it from me to controvert the rational part of these animadversions, but human affairs are of a mixed nature, and we can seldom enjoy the good, without its necessarily concomitant proportion of evil. Were the cruelties of the old System *necessary*, or those which I have seen practised, I would give up the whole, and devote it to eternal execration: but those are *not* necessary—and I speak from my own knowledge, and as a man long personally habituated to the exercises of the Course. In opposing Race Horses to each other, to try their Speed, a qualification peculiar to those Animals, we act from those rational motives, which are the guide and spur to all human improvement, and the result of the practice in this Country, has been successful, of which our superior breed of Horses is an illustrious proof. Were it incumbent upon us to put an end to a practice or System, on the score of abuses, to which they are liable, which is it, that would stand its ground? In that case, Religious Systems must fall first, since notwithstanding the divine and indispensable nature of *Religion itself, in its proper sense*, the Systems of it have brought more mischiefs upon Mankind, than any other species of evil and misfortune which can be named,

or all of them together. But the well meaning Philanthropists, from taking a partial view of the subject, do not consider that, the cruelties exercised on the Race Horse do not, at any rate, exceed those to which the Species is exposed in most other services; so far from it, the worst of his treatment is humanity itself, compared with the lengthened drudgery and accumulated barbarities, to which the poor Post and Stage Horses, and those of the lowest class, are subjected to the end of their miserable days. Amendment, then, of the *moral* and practice of Horse Racing is the *desideratum*, not abolition of the System. The improvement which has taken place of late years, is a pleasing reflection, and consoling earnest for the future.

Notwithstanding the incontestible proofs that, we owe the superiority of our breed of Horses, to the Turf System, periodical objections have been made to the Racing Breed; and we find among the Objectors, *Lord Herbert, of Cherbury*, almost two Centuries since; he was followed by *Sir Edw. Harwood*, and several Writers in the present Reign, have complained that the Gentlemen of the Turf, *breed their Horses so fine, for the sake of speed only*, that they became useless for any other purpose. In a Publication of the present day the Writer talks of Race Horses being bred from small sized Stallions, in order to produce early maturity, and for the sake of training two year olds; small sized Colts coming sooner into use,

as bearing to be trained earlier than the large. This, so far as my information extends, must be a view confined to very few Breeders and Trainers indeed, within the last half Century, whatever may have been the opinion and practice of former times. I rather apprehend, we have arrived at the other extreme. Our Turf Gentlemen seem universally, to have adopted the opinion of that shrewd Sportsman, Dr. Bracken—'a great good Horse, must always beat a little good one,' and accordingly, they esteem great size as a material qualification in their breeding stock. There is an old story on record that, a public spirited Gentleman, in the Reign of Queen Anne, impressed with the necessity of breeding the Race Horse to considerable size and substance, bequeathed in his Will, thirteen hundred Guineas to be annually run for, as Plates or Prizes, in thirteen different places appointed by the Crown; each Horse to carry the weight of twelve stone, four mile heats: and that, this bequest has furnished the money for those, which are called Royal Plates: nevertheless it is said that, the disbursement for all the Royal Plates are to regularly traced, in the Registers of the *Lord Chamberlain*, of the King's *Master of the Horse*, and at the *Jewel Office*. It is still difficult to conceive that, such a report should be entirely destitute of grounds.

It is surely not *size* or *substance*, in which English Race Horses, at least those of the present day, are defective, but so much certainly cannot be said in

respect of *form*, thorough shape not always being discoverable among Racers any more than in other Varieties of the Horse. This arises, doubtless, from more attention being customarily paid to fashionable blood, or repute in the Stallion and Mare, than to just, external confirmation; and on a point of so much real importance, I refer the Reader to the *Additions* to the third Edition of the *Philos. & Practical Treatise on Horses*, where the subject is treated practically, and more at large than can be expected here. One great object in breeding Racers, should be to obtain thorough shape and *substance well placed*, that if the produce, to use the words of a profound, but vulgar Writer, *will not make Parsons, they may serve for Clerks*; in other words be adapted to useful, as well as luxurious purposes. Two Horses shall be equal in size, general substance and weight in the scale, but one being well shaped, and his substance well placed, shall, whether as a Racer or for other purposes, have a vast superiority of qualification, over the other which Nature or the Art of Man have not fostered with so much attention. A Horse intended for speedy action, with too great weight on his shoulders, and that ill-placed, with too little substance in his Loins, too great length of legs, and their extremities standing in such a direction that they are liable to interfere and wound each other, is not very likely to reward the pains and expence of his Breeder, or prove a very valuable servant to the Public. Yet what num-

bers of such do we see, turned out of the Studs of this Country of high pretensions.

It is a circumstance generally known, that *bred*, or Race Horses, from the solidity of their bones, and some peculiar intrinsic force or power in their muscular and fibrous systems, are capable of carrying, and with expedition, far heavier weights in proportion, than the Northern, or native Horses of Europe. And I have seen the late Mr. Bullock, then riding nearly or altogether twenty Stone, cantering over the London pavements, upon a little thorough bred Horse, under fourteen hands in height, and which, to common Observers, was not equal to more than half the weight. Was a thirty stone Plate to be run for, at twenty mile heats, the Prize would be carried off by thorough bred Horses, of which we have always, in this Country, possessed some of great size and powers. I was not however aware that, the power of standing under the greatest weight, between the Racer and the common Horse, had ever been actually put to the test, until I lately read the following curious evidence of the fact, in a Letter from the Rev. William Chafin to a friend—" Captain Vernon, sometime after *Amelia* was out of training, laid a very considerable Wager, that she bore a greater weight upon her back without cringing, than a certain Miller's Horse, which had been used to carry heavy sacks all his life time. The Mare and the Horse were placed side by side, on the even ground, and bags of different sizes, whether of corn

or sand, I know not, but I believe the latter, were placed on their backs with great precaution. The Mare never moved, but after immense weight had been placed on both, the Horse began to *sidle*, and before the last bag could be put on him, he sunk on his knees; it was put on the Mare, and she bore it, never moving her posture until she was unloaded. An immense sum of money was lost and won in this trial." Amelia raced, I believe, about sixty or seventy years ago, was the best Mare of her year, and a great winner at Newmarket; and Mr. Chafin had the above account, about a week after the trial had been made, from the father of the present Sir John Lade, an eye witness. The particulars are in all probability to be found in one of *Cheney's*, that is to say, the earliest Racing Calendars; but such experiments by no means deserve the countenance of Sportsmen, being in their very nature *barbarous*, and almost unavoidably, likely to be productive of irreparable injury to the victims of them. There is a deception in the appearance of the bred Horse, particularly in the bone, which from the fineness of the skin and smoothness of the hair, does not show bulk so prominently, as the bone of the Horse of a coarser breed; and there are many Cart Horses which cannot stand in competition with some of our Racers, for size of the leg bone below the knee. *Sampson*, the Sire of *Bay Malton*, measured eight inches and half round the smallest part of his fore-

leg, and nine inches round the same part of his hinder leg.

The *British and Hibernian* THOROUGH BRED RACER or GALLOPER, is one descended both by Sire and Dam, from *South Eastern* Progenitors, and those of the pure breed of *Coursers*. The common error has been adverted to, that we have improved our own indigenous breed into Racers, by crosses with the Southern Horse. No such practice has ever been tried, at least within the last Century, although a few accidental common crosses may and have actually occurred; but they have been single and not pursued, of course, have not proved of any radical consequence. Probably, Racers might be produced from the use of the foreign Horse with English common bred Mares only, as *Merino Ryland*, or *Merino Down* Sheep are, in the fifth Generation; or in a nearer, still a round about process, of using half or three part bred Mares, and waiting for the result, in two or three Generations; but when the risk and uncertainty are considered, of obtaining a Racer, with winning qualifications, from even the best bred Stock, and Stallions of the highest repute, no man of sense would think of breeding from the inferior, or of bringing the produce of such, into competition with the thorough bred.

The PEDIGREE of the RACE HORSE must show all the Sires and Dams, to the last mentioned and earliest, to have been true bred, although it be not

necessary that all of them should have actually raced. If the Pedigree be short, it is requisite that the last Mare mentioned in it, be either a Racer, or a known and true bred blood Mare, British or Southern. The *old Blood*, or Horses with the longest Pedigrees, are generally held to be superior, both because no foreign Horses have of late years been imported, equal as Stallions, to those of former times, and that we find by experience, there is a gradual improvement made in their progeny by the mild Climate, and full feeding afforded them in this Country.

The superiority of our Racers is the result of causes the most obvious; they have been bred for Centuries, exclusively for this particular purpose, from Stock chosen with the utmost care, without regard to expence, fed from their colthood with an unrestricted allowance of the most nourishing food, fostered in the most indulgent and generous mode, and trained with the most scrupulous precision. All *South Eastern* Horses are *Gallopers*, but those of the following Countries, have proved of the best form and symmetry, in our Turf phrase, have shewn most *blood*, and their produce have been the truest *Runners*—the *Arabian*, *Barbary*, *Turkish*, *Persian*, and *Syrian*. The superiority of the *Arab* has been already stated as a late discovery, and the *Mountain Arabian* or *Horse of the Desert* is supposed to be of the pure and unmixed breed of *Coursers*. *Arabia Deserta*

is said to be the native Country of this incomparable Race, of which there is also a Species to be found, in *Arabia Fœlix*. There are three *Varieties* or *Classes* of the Arabian Horse, which are called, according to the orthography adopted by Travellers—*Kehilani*, *Kehidischi* and *Attichi*. The first are styled by the Inhabitants of that Country, the *noble*, being the pure breed, the blood having been preserved uncontaminated, during more than two thousand years, which, considering the permanency of Eastern customs, and the extreme attachment of the *Arabian* People to their Horses, in which also their highest interest is implicated, need not perhaps much excite our scepticism. The Names, Marks, Colours, Age and Qualifications of all their superior Stallions and Mares, are generally known among the Arabian Breeders, as among ours; but they carry their scrupulosity and precaution far beyond us—for, on the covering a Mare, witnesses are called, who give a solemn Certificate of the consummation, signed and sealed in the presence of the *Emir*, or of some Magistrate. The same Ceremony is repeated when the Foal is dropped, with a Certificate of the birth, and a particular description. Thus they have far more authentic and better attested Pedigrees, than any we can boast. A Warranty of this kind, is usually given to the Purchaser of an Arabian Horse of the superior Class, and the following is the latest that I have heard of, being brought with a Horse from *Egypt*, with our Troops, *by Colonel Ainsley*—

"In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, and of Seed *Mahommed*, Agent of the high God, and of the Companions of *Mahommed* and of *Jerusalem*. Praised be the Lord, the omnipotent Creator. This is a high bred Horse, and its Colt's Tooth is here in a Bag, hung about his Neck, with his Pedigree, and of undoubted Authority, such as no infidel can refuse to believe. He is the son of *Rabbamy*, out of the Dam *Lahahdahah*, and equal in power to his Sire, of the tribe of *Zazuhalah*; he is finely moulded and made for running like an *Ostrich*, and great in his stroke and his cover. In the honours of relationship, he reckons *Zalicah*, Sire of *Mahat*, Sire of *Kellac*, and the unique *Alket*, Sire of *Manasseh*, Sire of *Alsheh*, Father of the Race down to the famous Horse, the Sire of *Lahalala*, and to him be ever abundance of green Meat and Corn, and Water of life, as a reward from the Tribe of *Zazahalah*, for the fire of his cover, and may a thousand branches shade his carcase from the *Hyæna* of the Tomb, and the howling Wolf of the Desert, and let the Tribe of *Zazahalah* present him with a Festival within an enclosure of walls; and let thousands assemble at the rising of the Sun, in troops hastily, where the Tribe holds up under a Canopy of celestial Signs, within the Walls, the saddle with the Name and Family of the Possessor. Then let them strike their hands, with a noise incessantly, and pray to God for immunity for the Tribe of *Zoab*, the inspired Tribe."

The above is no doubt a satisfactory Pedigree, granting it authentic, since the Progenitors quoted are all understood to have Pedigrees equally good, to the most remote. But it is easy to conceive that, a Pedigree may be manufactured in one place as well as in another, and the Eastern *Jockies* are said to be no way behind their Peers in any other Country, at *a cross*. The second Class of Arabians are said to be such, as have not had the benefit of so much attention to their breeds as the superior, probably on account of their inferior form and size; and the last are described as a sort of refuse or mixed breed. The difference in opinion and practice, between the *Arabian* and our Turf and other Breeders, is remarkable, and not less the decided success of the former, who have never in *two thousand years*, crossed or changed their blood. The *Arabs* are thorough shaped Horses, their skins of an incomparable glossy silkiness, Eyes of a most beautiful lustre and expression, of the mildest temper, yet of the highest courage. They gallop in the same style with our Racers, and some of them are true *Daisy-Cutters*, that is to say, going with a straight knee, and as it were, shaving the grass with their hoofs. Stretching out the Neck and head, and carrying the Tail straight to the end in action, are said to be signs of Arabian blood. The true Arabs perhaps never exceed fifteen hands in height. The *Barbs* seldom exceed fourteen, and those which I have seen are of a more slender form,

and more leggy than the Arabians, with somewhat of a *mulish* appearance. Of late years, they have lost that superiority of reputation among our Breeders, which they formerly maintained. *Turks* are seldom now imported; they were formerly said to be slender and leggy Horses. The *Syrians* perhaps are the largest Horses imported from the Levant. The *Egyptian*, like the *Syrian* stock, are larger than the *Arabian*; but few of the two former, so far as we can determine by the name, have been tried in our Studs, as Stallions, and those few have obtained no reputation. The *Persians* are a valuable Race, and one or two in that Country stand high in our Annals. They are said to have firm hoofs, perhaps the best of any of the Southern Horses, but they are also characterized as *Pig-headed*, the head being so abruptly joined to the neck, as to make them, according to old Horsemen's phrase, *Stargazers*, carrying their noses so high, as even to strike the Rider's face with their heads: yet, what seems incompatible, they are said to be naturally a curvetting breed, and to rein well. I have seen several of them, and observed this defect, and also their excellent qualification of tough hoofs. In fine, all *South Eastern* Horses are *Coursers*, from the *Arabians* and *Barbs* of the first Class, progressively to those of other Countries above described; with which perhaps, the *Tartar* Horses may be included. *Hungary* and *Spain* too, have formerly bred Horses of this description from Stock of *Asia*

and Africa; and Dr. Bracken had a famous winning Mare called *Rumpless*, by an *Anadalusian Spanish* Horse, no doubt one of the old *Jennets* or *Barbary* Horses, once of such high repute, but now, I fear, utterly extinct, in that miserable *King-ridden* and *Priest-ridden* Country, the legitimate Governors of which, are more intent on *converting* Jews, and working Petticoats for the holy Virgin, than providing *sheets* and body-clothes for a noble breed of Horses.

Much uncertainty has always prevailed amongst our Breeders, with respect to real breeds of imported foreign Horses, a matter of no slight consequence, and for which some standard of judgment is required, on account of the experienced superiority of the Arabians and Barbs, and thence the great object of obtaining them genuine. Stallions have been in former times, alternately called *Barbs* and *Arabians*. Others have been named merely from the Country whence they chanced to be imported, without any knowledge of, or regard to that in which they were bred. Many have been received here and advertised to cover as *Arabians*, which in their form, had little or nothing of the *Arabian* about them, still less in their progeny, and which most probably, had never in their lives, been within five hundred miles of *Arabia*. This makes it regretted that, Portraits have not been preserved of those *Arabians*, which have proved the genuineness of their blood, by the racing Stock which they

immediately produced, the grand criterion of superiority. The same regret is due to the neglect and total loss of those of our early capital Racers, which our Sporting Gentlemen suffered to rot and moulder away neglected and unnoticed, in the damps of Garrets and Cellars at Newmarket! Such was the account given by the late *Mr. Sandiver* of Newmarket, an Amateur Sportsman of much information, by letter to *Mr. Lawrence*, who some years ago, took great but fruitless pains, to discover if any Portraits yet existed of the *Darley and Alcock* Arabians, and of the *Byerley Turk*. The Portrait of the Darley Arabian was seen by a Gentleman thirty or forty years since, in the Library at the Family Seat near York; and some Gentleman in Surry, has at this time, an Engraving of it. There is also a Portrait of the original *Godolphin Arabian*, by *Seymour*, known to be such, by a Gentleman now living, who often saw the Horse, in the last year or two of his life. It is submitted, whether Engravings of these two portraits, do not merit a place in the *Sporting Magazine*, in the Volumes of which, they would find a secure Asylum, among so many of their descendants. The last, on account of the dispute in relation to *Stubbs's* Picture, which however seems to have been set at rest in the *Delineation of the Race Horse*. It is also recommended to Painters, not to omit the Name of the Horse and date of the Year, which may be conveniently put upon the back of the Picture.

Many interesting old Portraits of Race Horses, want this addition.

The *Arabian* People, a Nation of Horsemen, so fondly attached to their Horses, and in some respects so kind to them, for which they meet a most ample return, are nevertheless in others, most severe and cruel. This shews itself according to *Chateaubriant*, in their mode of *hardening* them, by an exposure throughout the day, without food or water, to the burning Sun of the Desert, and the horrible torture of the flies upon their fine and delicate skins, the wretched Animals standing with their heads between their legs. And this brave method of hardening, sillier than Witchcraft, is described with applause, by that alluring, but superficial and frothy Writer, who likewise says that, the Arabs still retain the ancient senseless trial of the goodness of their Horses, by running them ninety miles outright, without resting, with a conclusion worthy of the commencement, riding them up to their bellies in water! Lord *Valencia*, a late Traveller in the East, tells us that the *Arab* System of riding totally destroys a Horse in a very short time. He is taught only to walk, canter or gallop, and when at full speed, is made to stop short, by means of a strong bit, which ruins his mouth in a Year, whilst the force employed throws him on his Haunches, and very frequently breaks him down at an early age. This stupid practice, and the abominable Curb by which it is enforced, prevails in most parts of the *East*, excepting in *Persia*, where it is said their managed

Horses are ridden with a mild *Snaffle*. The speed and matchless goodness of the Horses of the *Desert*, where they are comparatively, poorly kept, and vilely managed, are fully confirmed by the concurring testimony of Ages, by the judgment of foreign Nations, and the superior price they have always borne. Mr. Legh, in his voyage to *Egypt* in 1812, relates that, a *Dongolese* Horse was sold at *Cairo*, for the value of one thousand Pounds Sterling. *Dongola* is a dry and sandy Country, said to produce the best Horses in the World. It is supposed that, the *Wahabee* Conquerors have now got into their possession, the *Nejia*, the same I presume as the *Kehilana*, breed of *Arabian* Horses with known Pedigrees, and will not permit them to be carried out of the Country.

Some account may be expected of those two very celebrated *Arabians*, the DARLEY and GODOLPHIN, for which the present is a convenient place.

The DARLEY ARABIAN, standing at the head of our Racing Pedigrees, was, according to the scattered remnants of tradition, which I have been able to pick up, a horse of good substance, finely formed, inclining to the deep or blood bay, and nearly or altogether fifteen hands in height. He was sent from Aleppo, perhaps towards the end of Queen Anne's Reign, by MR. DARLEY, of a Sporting Family in *Yorkshire*, at that period, a mercantile Agent in the East, and belonging to a Hunting Club at *Aleppo*, where he made interest

to purchase this Horse, doubtless, from all concurring circumstances of evidence, a real *Courser of the Desert*, and of the ancient and pure blood. He was kept by *Mr. Darley* as a private Stallion, covering very few Mares but those of his Proprietor; indeed, as *Arabians* had been long out of repute in the English Breeding Studs, such consequence was to be expected, and a variety of the best bred Mares of the Country, were not annually poured in upon him, as afterwards, in consequence of his great success, upon the *Godolphin Arabian.* His first get, however, was a true and successful Racer, and from this Arabian have descended, the speediest, and the largest Coursers, that ever outstripped the Winds, in striding and springing over the Earth. FLYING CHILDERS and ECLIPSE, the swiftest of Quadrupeds, were the Son and great Grandson of this Stallion, from which also, through *Childers and Blaze* descended *Sampson*, the most powerful Horse which ever raced, whether before or since his time; of first rate speed as a Racer, and in form, entitled to equal pre-eminence as a Hunter, Hack, or Coach Horse. Indeed, were the old black Horse now in existence, he would make a most respectable figure in the shafts of Mr. *Whitbread's* Dray, and I could easily, from my own knowledge and recollection, make up the full team, from our racing Stallions; an observation addressed to those, who suppose Race Horses necessarily a spider-legged and useless breed. The *Darley Arabian* was the Sire of *Flying*, or the *Devonshire*

Childers; Bleeding or Bartlet's Childers; Almanzor; Whitelegs; Cupid; Brisk; Dædalus; Skipjack; Manica; Aleppo; Bullyrock; Whistlejacket; Dart, and others; some of them out of Mares of no great repute.

Flying Childers was bred by *Leonard Childers,* Esq. of Carr House, *Doncaster,* and sold to the *Duke of Devonshire* at three years old; and according to a Contemporary Writer, his Grace afterwards refused for the Horse, his weight in silver, which probably would have amounted to five or six thousand Pounds, a vast sum for a Horse at that time. He was said to be vicious, which seems to be indicated by his countenance and manner, according to his Portrait; and like *Eclipse,* he was a resolute and headstrong Horse. No Horse in his time, could run within a distance of him over the Course. In form, he was short backed and compact, his length to a considerable degree being made up in his legs, not according to general estimation, the most advantageous shape for a Race Horse; but *Childers* was a Horse *above ordinances,* superior to the ordinary rules of form, by which others of his species seem to be bound; there do not appear in his Portrait, that depth and slant of shoulder, which we have seen in *Eclipse. Childers* probably did not race until six years old, and never any where but at *Newmarket;* and there is an old and probable tradition current in *Yorkshire,* that his extraordinary speed and powers were first discovered at a severe *Fox Chase,* in which all other

Horses in the Field, were knocked up. In colour he was bay, with white upon his nose, and whited all fours; namely, upon his pasterns, the white reaching highest upon his near fore leg and his hinder leg. His head, although well joined to his neck, and his muzzle fine, was rather thick over the jowl. He was foaled in 1715, and his Pedigree is as follows—Son of the Darley Arabian out of *Betty Leedes*, by old *Careless*; Grandam, own sister to *Leedes*, by *Leedes' Arabian*, which was the Sire of *Leedes*; Great Grandam by *Spanker*, out of the old *Morocco* Mare, Spanker's own Dam. *Old Careless*, Sire of the Dam of *Childers*, was got by *Spanker* out of a Barb Mare. *Spanker* was almost all *Barb*. Thus we see the Pedigree of Childers runs very much *in and in*, that is, his progenitors were bred from the nearest affinities. Never was there a more complete racing Pedigree, all the progenitors to the last, having proved their blood by successful racing or breeding Racers, and all of the best blood, *Arabian* or *Barb*. In October 1722, *Childers* beat Lord *Drogheda's Chaunter*, previously the best Horse of the Day, six miles, ten stone each, for one thousand Guineas. He had already at six years old, ran a trial against *Almanzor* and the *Duke of Rutland's Brown Betty*, nine stone, two pounds each, over the *Round Course*, at *Newmarket*, three miles, six furlongs and ninety three yards, which distance he ran in *six minutes and forty seconds*; to perform which, he must have moved *eighty-two feet and a half*, in one second of

time, or nearly after the rate of one mile in a minute; the greatest degree of velocity, which any Horse has ever shewn, or probably ever will. He likewise ran over the Beacon Course, four miles, one furlong, one hundred and thirty-eight yards, in *seven minutes and thirty seconds*, covering at each bound, a space of *twenty-five feet*. He leaped *ten yards* on the level ground, with the Rider on his back.

The Godolphin Arabian was about fifteen hands in height, with good bone and substance; in colour, a brown bay, mottled on the buttocks and crest, but with no white, excepting a small streak upon the hinder heels. All the old Engravings give him the high and swelling Crest which has been so much noticed in *Stubbs's* Picture; there is also the same sinking behind his withers, and asinine elevation of the spine, towards the loins. His muzzle was remarkably fine, that he might well, a favourite idea of the old Jockies, have drank out of a tumbler. He was truly *snake-headed*, which is to say, his head was perfectly well set on. His capacious shoulders were in the true declining Position, quarters well spread, and of every part materially contributory to action, Nature had allowed him an ample measure; in his *tout ensemble*, there appears the express image of a wild Animal, or Horse of the *Desert*, and of one, at the first view, perfectly adapted from his form to get Racers. The old Engravings do not make his Muzzle so fine as it appears in *Stubb's Picture*. I

have been informed that he was sent to *France*, from some capital or Royal Stud, in *Barbary*, probably from *Morocco*; and it was suspected he was stolen; but so little valued that, he was actually used to draw a Cart in the Streets of *Paris*. It is not known that he had any Pedigree, but a notice was sent over with him, that he was foaled in the Year 1724, most probably in *Barbary*. That he was really a *Barb*, I entertain little doubt, from his appearance on the canvas. As to his being called an *Arabian*, as I have already shewn, that determines nothing; but there was also a strong motive to make an Arabian of him, from the then late great success of that blood, in Mr. Darley's hands, and as in consequence it had become fashionable.

This Horse was not imported by *Mr. Coke*, as has been supposed, from *Barbary*, but from France. *Mr. Coke* gave him to *Mr. Williams*, Master of St. James's Coffee House, who presented him to the *Earl of Godolphin*. Being most likely out of condition, and not shewing himself to advantage, he was kept on the noble Lord's Stud, as *Teaser*, to *Hobgoblin*, during the Years 1730 and 1731, when that Stallion refusing to cover *Roxana*, she was served by the Arabian, and the produce was a Colt foal, afterwards named *Lath*, which proved not only a most elegant and beautiful Horse, but the best Racer which had appeared upon the Turf since *Flying Childers*. The Arabian covered during the remainder of his life, in the same Stud,

producing yearly a succession of Prodigies of the Species. He died in 1753, in his twenty-ninth year, and his remains were deposited in a covered Passage leading to the Stable, a flat, thankless Stone, bare of any Inscription, being placed over him. *Mr. Chafin* was at *College*, during two or three of the last Years of this famous Stallion's life, and *Gogmagog* being near to *Cambridge*, frequently visited him, and saw the Horse's favourite *Cat* sitting by him, or upon his back; but was not acquainted with the circumstance of the Cat pining itself to death, soon after the loss of its favourite Horse.

The following famous Racers, some of which were of great size and power, besides many others of inferior note, with a great number of capital racing and blood Mares, descended from the Godolphin Arabian:—*Lath, Cade, Regulus, Babram, Blank, Dismal, Bajazet, Tamerlane, Tarquin, Phœnix, Slug, Blossom, Dormouse, Skewball, Sultan, Old England, Noble, The Gower Stallion, Godolphin Colt, Cripple, Entrance.* The sums put in circulation, by the numerous descendants of the above two Racing Stallions, have been immense.

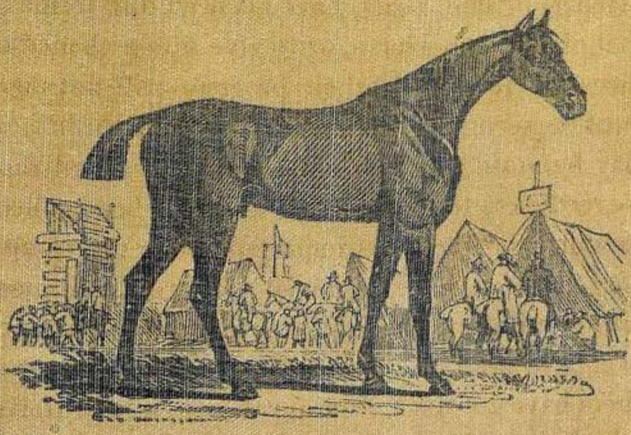
It ought to be noted, with some attempt at explanation, that, none of these foreign Coursers are able to race here, although from them and their blood solely are our Racers derived; and without the slightest doubt, had the best *Southern* Stallions been tried in this Country, they would have been beaten any distance and at any weight, by our na-

five Race Horses. Such was the fate of *King James's Arabian*; and as a more extensive proof, about half a Century since, we had an *Arabian* Plate at Newmarket, in running for which, the foreign Horses shewed neither speed nor goodness. Some have assigned as a reason for this result, difference of Climate, or the age of the Horses, and their not being trained in their youth. Reasons purely of smoke—since our Climate, high keeping and Stable attention, agree perfectly well with the Southern Horse, and he invariably improves under it, in every sense; and as to age or youth, the simile holds good—once a Captain and always a Captain—once a Racer and always a Racer—and had Eclipse been ridden Hackney, or hunted, or driven in a Waggon, until ten years of age, supposing him not crippled, and then trained, I apprehend, it would have been no easy matter to have found a Racer at Newmarket, to beat him. It is pretended however that, the case is similar with the English Race Horses in *Bengal*, where they, in their turn, are beaten by the *Arabians and Persians*. As to this fact, I am not well informed, nor have yet heard of any capital Racer sent to start in India; but at any rate, the case may not be parallel, since it may be well supposed that, a tropical Climate may so debilitate the English-bred Horse, as to take the greater part of his running out of him. The fairest trial would be for an *Arabian* or *Barb* Courser of the highest repute, to meet in some Country, equally favourable to both, length of

Voyage and all other circumstances considered, and I should have little doubt, the result would be, in old O'Kelly's well known phrase, the foreign Horse, in the Race, would 'be no where,' in other words, would not be able to save his distance.

The great success as Stallions, of those eminent foreign Horses just named, and some few others, has given encouragement to importation, and very considerable numbers have been purchased in the *Levant*, and tendered to our Breeders, with very lofty pretensions of Pedigree, and purity of Arabian blood; for since Arabians have been so successful, all are in course so styled: none however, since the *Godolphin Arabian*, have proved equal as Stallions to our own native breed; the experience of which has become so notorious that, few of our Breeders of late Years, have been willing to make trial of a foreign Horse, or to give him a chance of success. It is said, their progeny will not race, until the second or third generation, which, in fact, may be, until their impure blood be worked out. Nevertheless the *new Blood*, as it has been called, meaning the foreigners imported since the *Godolphin Arabian*, have produced a few good and more ordinary Racers, just able to save their distance over a Country Course. But the greater part of them have got stock, from our thorough bred Mares, which shewed scarcely more than three parts bred, and with no running at all in them, a proof that all Southern Horses are not true Racers, and that there really is a *thorough breed* in the East, from

which our great *Barbs and Arabians* of former days, were the genuine descendants. To distinguish these is a grand requisite; and the only probable mode or test—shew of blood, form and symmetry, fineness of hair and hoof, Country and Pedigree. But the grand practical test is racing in their immediate produce. There are no symptoms yet of degeneration in our native Racing Breed, or need of a renewal of blood, from the original fountains of the East; if any unfavourable change has taken place, it seems rather to have been in the Southern Horses themselves. The motive however exists, for the chance of drawing a twenty thousand pound Prize, in a new *Darley or Godolphin Arabian.*



THE BREEDING STUD.

The old Writers on this subject, give a number of sage cautions and directions as to the nature of the soil on which you are to breed Horses; that it should be dry, and stoney, and irregular, and the herbage fine, with streams of running Water, and so forth; all which is very true, and those Breeders very fortunate, who can light upon such desirable accommodations: but to reduce the difficulties in the matter, Racers may be bred in any part of our fortunate and plentiful Country, which improves all Animals, where are good Stabling and *Paddocks*, and a good exercise ground. A light soil, soft water and elastic turf, are doubtless preferable. The same Writers, in their instructions how to manufacture the Race Hore, direct us to find a Horse and Mare of the 'lightest and finest shapes possible,' and put them together. Now, however that might succeed formerly, it is a mere dead Letter now, since the finest shapes imaginable, would do nothing, or even worse than that, in the racing way, without *thorough* blood also. Form is yet doubtless a prime consideration, and an author we often quote, says—'Blood is blood, but form is superiority;—and among Horses equally well bred, superior organization, external and internal, will produce superior speed and power.' It is a maxim on the Turf, *to back the winning Racer*, in spite of any

idea of his reputed qualifications, or the how or why he wins. The same maxim is invariable in the Stud, every Breeder, and I am not aware of the necessity of hitching in an *almost*, making choice of successful Stallions or Mares, or those of successful blood, without the slightest regard to their external form. Great size is another favourite consideration. Nothing surely can be more plausible or has been more successful, for which indeed, there is a solid reason, the best Racers being always and necessarily of the best form, in the essential points. But at least with respect to well bred Stallions and Mares, which have not raced, surely the truest shapes ought to have the preference, and such must be the road to a still greater degree of perfection. Nor can a Mare be put to the best bred and most successful Stallion, with any probable hope, should the Stallion, as is too often the case, be overdone and exhausted by covering. From this cause, we derive many of those loose, leggy, cat-hammed and crooked pasterned creatures, which disgrace the Turf, and being fit for no useful purpose, are worn out in a life of exquisite misery.

The proper choice of the STALLION and MARE, has been already indicated. With respect to their *Pedigree*, a superiority is always attributed to those, which are free from any improper *Cross*, and any infusion of the *new Blood*, meaning that of the lately imported Horses. For example, a *Sampson* Cross has been generally disliked, although himself and Sons, *Malton*, *Engineer*, and others,

of his get, were capital and True Runners; and yet to mark the capriciousness of Turf opinion and fashion, I remember the time when, on a sudden, the Country was ransacked for *Engineer* Mares, to breed from. We have had a few seven-eighth part bred Horses, within the last seventy or eighty years, which have proved Racers, the last *Driver*, one of them; but I do not recollect any of them, excepting *Sampson*, in repute as Stallions.

In speaking of Pedigree, a few pages back, I believe, I inadvertently committed an error, in giving that precedence of date to *Place's White Turk*, which is due to the *Helmsley Turk*, the property of *Villiers* the first Duke of *Buckingham*.

Few Horse Breeders will, I apprehend, be induced to make the experiment of breeding IN AND IN, although after the example of the *Earl of Egremont*, and notwithstanding the success of our great Breeders of other Cattle. Nevertheless, the objections to such plan have little other ground, than prejudice and custom; and assuredly, if a more ample assemblage of the requisite shapes and qualities, should be discovered in a father and daughter, or brother and sister, than could otherwise be obtained, such an opportunity need not be neglected, from any apprehension of ill consequences. Like is supposed generally to produce like. The Reader has already seen, how much there was of in and in, and how successful it proved, in the Pedigree of *Flying Childers*. To cite another example from among the old Racers, the Horse

called *Jig of Jigs*, in the Year with *Sampson*, was got by *Jig* out of his own *(Jig's)* Dam; yet the produce became a winning Racer. This *Jig*, son as I recollect, of the *Alcock Arabian*, the Sire also, of the famous *Old Crab*, was a good King's Plate Horse, and covered Mares in the Spring of each Year of his running; a plan practised formerly, and revived in a few instances, of late. Such a Plan may answer very well, in some circumstances, and with some Horses.

CROSSING, in breeding for the Turf, refers to an interchange of different Racing Blood, and the old Jockies hold that of the *Darley Arabian*, to be a proper Cross for the *Godolphin* Blood; and that of the *Byerley Turk*, the *Alcock Arabian*, the *Curwen Barb* and others of repute, to be good Crosses for the Blood of either of the first two. This opinion in course, extends to their present descendants. The notion however, has little to support it but authority; and crossing for the visible purpose of an interchange of form and quality, without any regard to blood, seems to be far the most intelligible and rational---for example, to join a hot and speedy Stallion with a temperate and stout Mare, both equal in blood, or the reverse; or long and loose forms with the more substantial and fixed. I cannot define the external conformation of the Running Horse more truly than in the following words—

"In order to capital performance, a Racer should have sufficient general length; but in the Neck and Legs, length should be moderate; open Nos-

trils, and a loose and disembarrassed Windpipe; high, deep and extensive Shoulders, falling back into the Waist; broad and substantial Loins or Fillets, deep Quarters, wider in proportion than the Shoulders, that the hinder feet may be farther apart than the fore; the curve of the Hock, sufficient to give adequate support to the Loins; the Pasterns to correspond with the Neck and Legs, in moderate length and declination, and the Toes to point in a direct line. Such are the Cardinal points in a Race Horse, and as these prevail more or less, in proportion will be his Speed or his Stoutness, in other words, power of continuance."—"The most perfect shape for strength and action, consists in the union of width and depth; width decreasing, and depth somewhat increasing at the Shoulder, which should also recline backward."

Horses always go with their shoulders—which being interpreted, means that, the Shoulders of the Horse, are most contributory to action; contrary to a *French* Riding School opinion, that the hinder Quarters are in that respect, most material. A Racer with well formed Shoulders, and defective hinder Quarters, I apprehend, would generally, *ceteris paribus*, prove superior to another, with defective Shoulders, and well formed hinder quarters, a result which I have witnessed, in a great number of instances. The Shoulder of the Racer as of other Horses, is either narrow to an edge, at the summit of the Withers, or, an occurrence not frequent to the Race Horse, of considerable width

at the summit, as in the Hare and Greyhound. *Eclipse's* Shoulder was so formed. This form however is apt to throw the fore legs too wide apart, and should such a Shoulder be upright, the Horse could not possibly be of much worth as a Racer. There is another very common variation of form in the Horse. In some, the back is short, with a close approximation of the Ribs and Huggon Bones, the defect of length being made up in the Legs, and perhaps the Neck: in others, their length lies chiefly in the Waist, with a considerable space between the Ribs and Bones. This latter form, or the inclination towards it, for the extreme has an evident tendency to weakness, granted it be supported by proportionate depth of carcase, substance of loin, and extent in the haunches, is perhaps most conducive to stride, and the power of continuance, if not to ready action. Some have their length, *and a Racer must have length somewhere*, by standing over a great deal of ground, by their Shoulders being placed very forward, and their Necks being short. Others are of the round, barrel form, carrying their substance, as it were, horizontally, instead of in depth, and yet perhaps measure as much proportionally in girth, as those which appear much deeper. Of this shape, a Horse of former days called *Spanking Roger*, was a remarkable instance; and *Sorcerer* of the present Day, and his Stock in general, incline to it.

With respect to the Action of the *Racer*, in his only two Paces the *Walk* and the *Gallop*, some

push the leg forward naturally, with the knee very slightly bent, and are called, as has been before observed, *Daisy-cutters;* these may be true Racers, but they are very unsafe to ride, any where but upon the Turf. Other Racers bend their knees like Road Horses, and lifting their feet clear of the ground, have a more active but shorter stroke. These latter, granting they have a moderate stride and sufficient internal power to support the additional labour of making a greater number of strokes, will in general, prove superior to the great striders, which are so apt to overreach themselves, and to loiter on the ground; their hinder quarters not following with sufficient energy, and *losing time whilst they cover space.* But when extensive striding is joined with apportionate power in the Loins, with activity and vigorous throwing in of the Haunches, such a mode of progression must no doubt, cover the greatest length of ground, in a given time. It is this rare union of the different modes of action, which constitutes the capital Racer—the same which produced a *Childers* and an *Eclipse*, the greatest striders, as well as the most active Racers of which we have any account.

After the external Conformation of the *Racer*, it remains to consider his internal QUALITIES—the hot and eager temperament is generally connected with delicacy of appetite, inaptitude for severe tasks, to carry high weights, or for long Courses; but accompanied with ready action or *speed:* Horses of the opposite constitutional tendency will, for the

most part, be found hard feeders, accumulating much internal fat, and carrying an external coat of solid and lasting flesh; able to carry weight, calculated for the longest distances, in need rather of being urged to exertion than restrained by the rein, and more distinguished for *stoutness*, in the Turf phrase, namely, stoutness of heart, or ability to last, than for speed. There will doubtless be found many anomalies, and many exceptions among Horses to the general rule, which nevertheless, as such, will abide the test of experience; and grounded upon such rule or principle, we have upon the Turf, two old and customary divisions of Race Horses, which according to their peculiar constitutional temperament, we classify as SPEEDY or STOUT. As a practical exemplification of the principle—a speedy Horse, at even and equal weights, shall with ease beat a stout Horse, one mile; make the Race four miles, and the stout Horse, on the same conditions, shall prove the winner with equal ease. This ever has, and from the nature of things, ever must be so general a consequence, that it affords no credit to the discernment of those practical Horse Coursers, who treat the old opinion relative to speed and stoutness in Horses, as supposititious and chimerical; affirming that, as speed ultimately wins the Race, of whatever length, the Winner must necessarily be the speediest Horse. In that limited and partial sense, their affirmation is no doubt true; but the question does not relate to speed exhausted and reduced by exertion, but to

that quality as long as it can continue in its full vigour; and when they see the stout Horse beaten in a mile Race, they will surely remain consistent, and acknowledge the Winner to be the *speediest, and that Speed is his best.*

It does not happen indeed that, Racers are always decidedly speedy or stout, Nature contriving the matter more usefully, by blending those seeming opposite qualities in a vast variety of degrees. Nevertheless, Horses occasionally appear, *singly qualified*, that is to say, distinguished exclusively either for speed or stoutness; for example, a Racer shall be capable of running capitally, and beating all the Horses of his time, half a mile; the running distance of another, shall be a mile—'a good mile Horse.' Beyond their distance, such Horses are good for nothing, excepting for their Owners to bet against, if bets can be had. The stout Horse on the other hand, or some good one, in the language of old Frampton, shall *not be able to run fast enough to tire himself*—but he often runs fast enough to tire others, winning the Race by his game, and running through a four mile Course, as nearly as possible to the summit of his speed. When, however, these are in too great a degree out footed by superior speed, it is not in their power sufficiently to distress their Antagonists, and they are beaten. It is obviously most profitable, for a Racer to have a well apportioned share of these two requisite qualities; but on the whole, a Horse with considerable speed, a good stride, and not ab-

solutely a Jade, will on the average, win more money than the best slow Horse.

He who is about to commence his career, as a Breeder of Race Horses, will be pleased to understand that, he undertakes an arduous task, beset with a number of difficulties, some of which cannot even be accounted for, by any process of reasoning hitherto discovered. Although none but true bred Horses are able to contend with success, upon the English Course, yet the best blood and even the finest forms often fail, and numerous Colts and Fillies are tried annually, and found too defective in the racing principle, to afford a prospect of the repayment of expences. The best Horse of his day, as a Racer, and which could boast the oldest and most approved Pedigree, has in a great number of instances, when withdrawn from the Course, turned out a Stallion of no repute or worth for the purpose of breeding Racers; on the contrary, many well bred Horses which have never raced, and others which were middling or ordinary Racers, have proved most capital Stallions; a fact which seems to offer some apology for the similar effects, in the imported Horses, so few in number, compared with our native Stallions. So little certainty have we in these matters that, of two full brothers one shall race in the highest form, whilst the other, to the end of his Turf career, shall approach the Goal no nearer, than as a decent third or fourth, in running for a humble Country Plate, or even prove unable to race at all. That which is still the most

remarkable, and the least accountable of all, and of which I have seen a striking example within the last two years, a Colt of the best size, length, bone, and substance, the latter to appearance perfectly well placed, his Pedigree undeniable, and trained from his bitting with the utmost care, shall, on repeated trials, shew neither speed nor goodness. This inscrutable quality then, in the Courser, which we style *running*, may be supposed to depend on certain occult causes; however, for our consolation, on the average, blood and form conjoined, will bring us in, *first and first*, giving the Breeders the most rational of motives, to pay due attention to both, and that in a double view. But there is no more truth than reason, in the old and vulgar maxim that, *Horses of all shapes and makes can race*—which may be thus explained, a form essentially favourable to speedy progression, may be obscured by a gaunt and as it is called, a *cross-made* appearance.

One important corollary may, at any rate, be drawn from these antecedents; if a Breeder upon the large scale, can turn out annually, so few Racers, the chance or expectation of him, whose Stud consists of but two or three Mares, ought not to be very brilliant.

In an ancient Stud of thirty thousand Mares in Syria, we are informed, a Stallion was allotted to every hundred Mares; but *Aristotle*, of whose judgment in the important affair of procreation, no modern old Woman will entertain a doubt, reduced

the number to thirty. The ancient method in this Country, was, to turn the Stallion loose to his appointed number of Mares, in well fenced Enclosures; a plan liable to so many and such obvious objections, that they need not even a remark. Fifty Mares has been for a long time, judged the most advantageous number. The age of Stallions and brood Mares does not form any great objection, particularly to such of the former, as have not been exhausted by covering, too often indeed the case. Winning Mares retire, in course, with honour, to the Breeding Stud, at the conclusion of their racing Career; which ought to be a comfortable Asylum for their lives. Or well formed, roomy and well bred Fillies, rising four years old, which have not proved successful in training, may nevertheless become very successful as brood Mares.

The Covering Season extends from the beginning of the Year, generally of *February*, until the commencement of the *Dog-Days*, the length of the term affording a double chance—to those Mares which are backward in being *stinted*, that is, in conception, and to those stinted early, since a priority, and the growth of two, three, or four Months, may be of great advantage to Colts or Fillies, which may be engaged to run at two, or three Years old; and since Racers take the dates of their Age, universally from May-Day. The Heat or desire of the Mare, is generally found to be periodical throughout the Season, returning every *six*, *nine*, or *fifteen* days. Some Mares, not

apt Breeders, will fail in the Spring, and be hot with *horsing* in the Autumn: a Proprietor wishing to breed from a Mare in this predicament, need be under no apprehension with respect to the prospect of success, provided the Mare and Foal be well sheltered and lodged, and amply fed throughout the Winter and early Spring. Others, even though obviously under the influence of the *symptomatic fever*, are of a disposition so extremely capricious, that they not only refuse the Horse presented to them, but kick in so violent a manner as to be very dangerous; and I have known Stallions greatly injured in this way, and several of many hundred pounds value, killed outright. The best method with such Mares, is to strap their legs to a standing of short posts, fixed for that purpose. Barren Mares seldom refuse the Horse. Broken-winded Mares very rarely breed, and I believe *Crib-biters* are often barren. After the Mare has foaled, she will generally admit the Horse in *three*, or *four*, or *nine* days. If firm in body and in a good state of health, it is good practice to have her covered at the ninth day, with a repetition the two following days. Mares are presented to the Horse on every return of their heat, until they appear to be stinted, from their refusal of him, when such are turned together into their Paddocks.

The old Breeders reckoned the period of GESTATION in the Mare, from *eleven months and ten days, to a full year*. The period is supposed to be longest with a Colt Foal, and it is said the Mare

goes longest with her first Foal. This account is sufficiently correct. My own accounts are from *three hundred and thirty-four*, to *three hundred and sixty-three Days.* The necessity of a correct Stud Book, comprising Pedigrees, Dates and Memorandums of every kind, appertaining to the subjects of Breeding, existing state and Disposal, need not be insisted upon, nor that it be kept by a capable Person. The stinted Mares at grass, should have thatched Sheds or Hovels, in which to shelter from the heat of the Sun and from the Flies, which may else barrass the Mares and produce ABORTION, against which it is of great importance to guard. A Mare with symptoms indicating such accident, should be immediately taken from the others, and receive the proper attention of the Stable. No Geldings should be admitted among the Breeding Mares. Roomy and comfortable Boxes, well littered and frequently replenished, are equally necessary to protect the breeding Stock from the inclemency of the weather, during the Winter Season, and at all times, the feeding should be most liberal, consisting of the finest and most fragrant hay, and the heaviest Oats, and occasionally fine Pollard, with the choicest food of every Season, Lucerne, green Tares and Carrots; since no reasonable care or cost can be expended in vain upon the Horse, the most interesting of all Animals, and which, as he is one great source of our enjoyments, ought to be a sharer with Man, in all the goods and accommodations of life.

A daily inspection of the Mares being punctually attended to, it is the safest, although not a general method, to withdraw each individual, within a few days, or a week of her reckoning, to a safe and convenient place; in early foaling, or bad Weather, always within doors, or in a loose Stable or Out-house. The Mare brings forth in a standing position, generally in the Night, or early in the Morning; and is liable to as few accidents, and has as easy *parturition*, as any female whatever. The signs of her approaching *delivery*, which will be visible in general three days previously, are *diminished size of the Belly, flaccidity of the Udder, Tail pointing out, swelling of the parts, and discharge.* The *placenta*, or after-burden, should be removed. It is most safe to allow the Mare warm water during the first and second day after delivery, with comfortable Malt and Pollard Mashes, and she and the foal being in good Health, nothing remains but due attention, and the best keep, whether within or without doors. Should the Mare's MILK fail, every thing should be given to encourage that secretion, such as Mashes, warm and sweet grains, the finest *rowen* or other Hay, Cordial Ball, or as much mild Ale as she will drink.

Racing STALLIONS, being Animals of such considerable value, one would suppose that, under the direction of common sense, they could scarcely be neglected; yet within my memory, and information to be depended on, three of the very highest form and consequence, suffered fatal injuries from such

cause. A Horse surely, the present worth of which is so many thousands, and which is bringing in perhaps annual thousands, must merit the most punctilious attention. Perhaps a gentle purge or two of the accustomed kind, may be advantageous to the Stallion, a week or ten days before the Covering Season; and should he be heated and inflamed, and bound in body, in the midst of it, a single course of purging Salts, will be an effectual remedy, and help to restore his appetite and vigour. After which, should he be loose and throw off his meat, fine white split peas, or beans, or wheat, in small quantities with his Oats, will prove restorative and nourishing. The utmost bodily cleanliness should be observed, and if these Horses were led, Morning and Evening, into some clear Stream, the water sluicing their legs and lower parts, it would contribute much to their refreshment and invigoration; or the pump at Stable may afford a substitute. Their feet demand more care than they usually have; the toes should be kept short, and the hoofs daily suppled with water. The truth is, Covering Stallions are often too much confined to the Stable, but air and gentle exercise will, past all things, contribute to lengthen their lives and their services.

A FOAL of high expectation from its lineage and form, losing its Dam, and no foster Mother within reach, would certainly warrant the pains of being reared by *hand*, as CADE and MILKSOP both were, the former a name well known in our best

Pedigrees. The very common defect in Racing Foals, crookedness in the pastern Joints and thence an oblique direction to the toe, inwards or outwards, admits of no remedy, excepting that superior one of prevention, in breeding from just form andsymmetry, thedefectinquestion being generally from hereditary imperfection or weakness. Foals are WEANED at the end of the Grass Season, and should be handled as early as possible, and accustomed to wear the Head-stall. Yearlings must not be admitted, among the Mares and Foals, as they are apt to suck the Mares; in course, the Colts will be kept separate from the Fillies.

BREAKING for the Turf, will always take place early, as it is of such obvious consequence, to be assured as soon as possible, whether the young Stock are probable to repay the vast expence and solicitude, attendant upon training and the business of the Course; indeed, they are often matched to run at two years old. They should be thoroughly and carefully broken by a Man of light weight, and to repeat my favourite maxim, of unconquerable patience and temper. Breaking of this kind of Horse is however, the most simple of the Horse breaker's business: it is merely to make the Animal ride quiet and give it a good Mouth; as to paces, Nature has already done the needful; and we do not require of the Racer, in the Hudibrastic style—'to set his right foot before,' but suffer him to gallop with whatever foot first, his care and convenience may require.

Engraved by Webb, from a Painting by Barenger.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, March 1. 1818.

SLIGO.

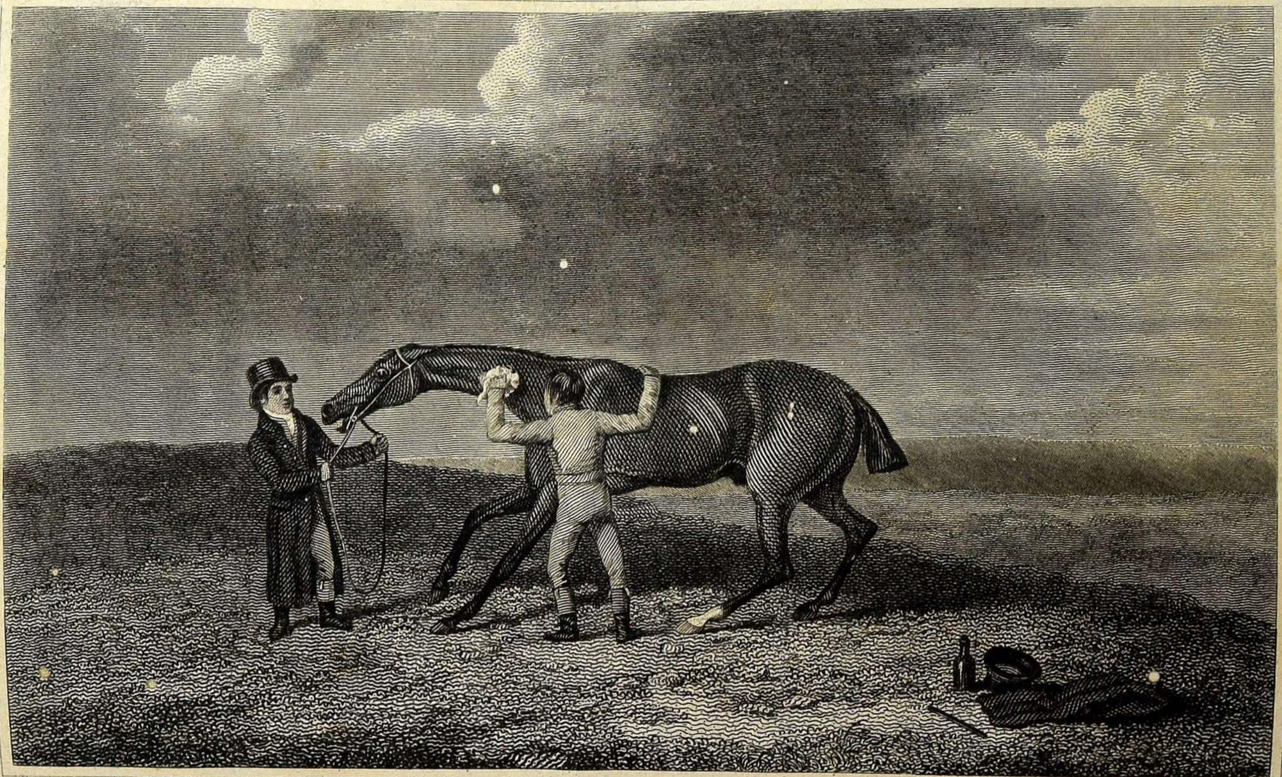
The Property of Mr. Ladie.

TRAINING the *Race Horse* was as might be expected, in the early period of the Turf, overdone with a number of absurd or superflous practices. At one time, it was held necessary to stint the Racer, in his food and water, in order that he might become light enough to run!—at another, he was stuffed with various kinds of *bread*, and exercised in heavy shoes, called *shoes of advantage*, with the intent that his speed might be encreased in the Race, by the decrease in the weight of his shoes! The plan of frequent and violent PURGATION succeeded, aided by Stables of the temperature of an Oven, excessive weight of Clothes, and laborious and exhausting SWEATS, together with the most barbarous and butcherly treatment during the Races, truly styled the Horse's *bloody Courses*, as, though it were necessary for human pleasure and profit, that no useless and rigorous infliction upon this noble, patient, and unoffending Animal, should be left unassayed. Within the last forty, but more materially within the last twenty years, the management of Race Horses, has undergone a very favourable change, the whole Turf System has been liberalized, and has in all respects, assumed a more mild and rational aspect. CROSSING AND JOSTLING Races are now seldom heard of, *fighting on Horseback*, by the Jockeys, never. Too much however of the old System yet remains, to which it will be necessary to direct the attention of the Gentlemen of the Turf.

The invariable preliminary to the exercise of

training, is two, or almost always, three doses of PURGING PHYSIC. This practice has been much decried and ridiculed by Medical Men and others, but however plausibly, not on the ground of experience; and examples have been adduced, of Horses running with success, without the aid of a single dose. These however, I conceive, belong to the class of exceptions, which occur to every general rule, and do not at all bear successfully upon the rule in question, the only ill consequence of which, consists in its abuse. Race Horses are necessarily high fed, and if only on that account and to unload the stuffed intestines, disembarrass the internal organization, and obviate those inflammatory symptoms which might supervene, on commencing a course of strong exercise, some previous cooling and evacuating medicine seems indispensibly requisite. I have seen Colts in high condition, put to work without this necessary preliminary, break out in consequence of their exercise, all over their bodies, in what the grooms call a *surfeit;* fall off their feed, become dull, and quite incapable of proceeding. Two or three purges recovered them perfectly, but time was lost.

In *training*, rising grounds and a dry and sound turf, are of great consequence to future success; and the danger to the feet and delicate joints of Racing Colts, may be readily conceived from stony and unyielding ground, or that which is deep and adhesive. Training consists in walking, cantering and galloping exercise of the Horses, in their



Engraved by J. Webb, from a Painting by Barenger.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, March 12, 1818.

RUBBING DOWN.

body clothes and hoods, generally twice a day; and in periodical gallops of four or five miles, styled SWEATS, every five, seven, or ten days, according to the condition or constitution of the Horse. In a Sweat, the Horse is loaded with a number of clothes and hoods, and galloped through the piece, at a considerable rate, and excited to occasional bursts of speed, in order to promote a copious discharge of perspiration, and remove his superfluous flesh. The run being finished, the Horse is taken to a Stable, or convenient Shed, where he is immediately stripped, and the sweat scraped from his body with the *wooden Sword*, the same kind of ancient implement, which performed this needful office for the high-bred Coursers of *Greece*, at the *Olympic Games*.

The above routine is persevered in daily, during the length of time which may be thought necessary, to perfect the condition of the Horse for his Course, which will generally, be two or three Months from the commencement of his exercise. The usual length of the gallop, is about a mile and a quarter, after which the Horses are watered; then have a canter, and walk to Stable. As they advance in wind and condition, their exercise is given more sharp, and they take their *brushing gallops*, in which they are put to nearly the top of their speed, to the length of half a mile or upwards. These with the TRIAL, complete the training process. Although a tolerable judgment may be formed, of the probable goodness of a Colt or Filly, from

their mode of going, their temper and their feeding, yet nothing short of an actual trial, can be safely depended on. The young ones are of course tried against the best known Racer in the Owner's possession, or he hires a trial Horse of some other Sportsman: this I believe, was formerly much more the practice than at present, and the capital Horses used to obtain considerable sums for running trials. When a trial is about to take place, public notice is given of the time fixed, that no person may come within sight of the Horses. It is stated in *the Philosophical and Practical Treatise on Horses*, that, *Eclipse's* trial at Epsom, was watched, and although the Parties, men no doubt employed by *Blacklegs*, or Blackguards, were a few minutes too late, yet they obtained the intelligence they wanted, from a casual Passenger; and thence the flying reports of the great powers of that Horse, were confirmed, and the odds, so considerable upon him on his first starting at Epsom. In short Winter Days, and uncertain weather, Race Horses can seldom go out to exercise more than once in the day, nor can it often be necessary. Racers are for the most part, kept in the Stable, and continued in exercise throughout the Winter, it being the general opinion that, if once suffered to lose their racing condition, it takes too great length of time to recover it, and that it is even a matter of uncertainty, whether or not they can again be brought to their former degree of goodness. I have great doubt of the solidity of this opinion,

and would not scruple to give a Racer two months run in a well-sheltered Paddock, with a loose Stable, whenever the state of his limbs and feet might require it. To reason from the well-known cooling and invigorating effects of the earth and the air, upon the body of the Horse, such a plan ought to increase his powers and lengthen his services.

To men attached to the Horse, and admirers of his wonderful qualities, nothing can be more delightful, than the sight of a *String* of Racers in their Clothes, in fine Weather, following each other up the Gallop, at due distance; and to those unaccustomed to Racing management, it is a curious scene to be present at Stable time, and to hear the ratling of the chains, and the *sibilation* or hissing of the Grooms, whilst currying, brushing and rubbing over their fine skinned and ticklish Coursers, wincing, lifting, kicking, smiling, snapping their teeth, and laying back their ears! There is another, in my sense, highly gratifying Spectacle in the routine business of the Turf, which however, I think, does not engage that attention of mere amateur Spectators, which it did in former days. Every Easter Sunday the whole of the Horses in training at *Newmarket*, gaily dressed out in their new clothes, the Jockey Boys also in theirs, follow in succession, in the gallop up to the King's Chair, upon the Heath on the other side of the Town. This chair it is said, obtained its name from being used by King *Charles* II.

as a seat on an eminence, from which he viewed the Horses in exercise. No other place upon Earth, can exhibit such a sight. I have there seen brushing along, with a rapture which none but a Man devoted to the Horse can feel—*trahit sua quemque voluptas*—*Shark, Dictator, Dorimant, Masquerade, Rocket, Highflyer, Potatoes, Magog, Maiden, Pretender, Woodpecker, Bourdeaux, Leviathan, Salopian, Laburnum, Fleacatcher, Mambrino.*—Can such a constellation of Racers, be matched at the present day, or has such a one appeared in any year since their time? It is not probable that they, and many before them, have been equalled in latter times, yet I feel convinced that, the English racing Blood has not degenerated. According to common report, the annual attention to *new Clothes* on Easter Sunday, has not of late years, been so punctual as formerly—the cause equally well known. Grievous and debasing Taxation, which blunts the human feeling and hardens the heart, to the degree of insensibility to the horror of fellow Creatures perishing for want in the Streets and Highways, can at no rate, favour a luxurious liberality. *Epsom* also, may be quoted, as affording a Spectacle similar to that at *Newmarket*, on a smaller scale. On the Sunday Afternoon, immediately before the *Epsom* Meeting, all the Horses engaged or in training, take their swift Gallops on the Downs, and they who have heard much of Race Horses and their great speed, may

see more of them at this exercise, than they will have opportunity to do at the public Races.

Some few pages back, acknowledging the vast improvement in our modern training System, I ventured an opinion that, it was still far short of attainable perfection, and my opinion is not that of a mere theorist or physiologist. Towards the elucidation of this point, the following Quotation may serve as a preface—

"In Lameness and treatment of the Legs and Feet of Horses, I have always acknowledged, and it is an undoubted fact, that racing Grooms are far superior to all others; still it is a case in which a superior skill is required, and it would be too much to expect, that our Grooms should be also sound Physiologists. There is nothing more difficult to determine, than the existence or extent of the injuries, affecting those fibres or threads, by which that wonderful piece of work, the animal Machine, is sown together. A Horse is suddenly let down in the Sinews, but the injury may have been of gradual access, encreasing necessarily with his exercise. At first perhaps, a few muscular fibres were strained, that is, stretched beyond their natural limit of extension; the parts affected become in consequence, more liable, and repetitions of the accident ensue, until the joints and tendons are disabled. It requires a practised hand and eye, and critical skill, to detect these injuries in their recent and remediable state. They are unknown and slighted by custom, until they forcibly make

themselves known to be incurable.—*Delin. Race Horse.*

In addition may be cited, that curious Performance, the *Genius Genuine* of the late well known *Samuel Chifney*, who, it may be presumed, drew his opinions on the mischiefs to which the Running Horse is subjected by over training, from the first Work on the subject, by the Author previously quoted; since, in Centuries, no Jockey before *Chifney*, ever dreamed of principles so inimical to sacred and hallowed Custom.

I may moreover boast that, I had a somewhat long correspondence by letter, with Chifney, who, to the honour of his great Friends, was suffered to linger out his life in the Fleet Prison. Of the moral character of the man, and his desert in such respect, I have no information; but his Book contains so much important matter and true feeling, of the greater interest as coming from a professional Jockey, that, any eccentricity or even absurdity it may contain, stands fully excused. *Chifney* avers that—

"It is destruction to Horses to sweat them in the manner they are sweated at *Newmarket*, as the practice there is to sweat once in six days, and sometimes oftener, and between those days of sweating, it is usual for the Horse to go out twice a day, each time having strong exercise. In these sweating days the Horses are mostly covered with clothes, two or three times doubled, and go in their sweats six miles, more or less, and at times go tolerably fast. Di-

rectly the Horse pulls up he is hurried into the Stable, which is on the spot for that purpose. As soon as he gets in, there is often more clothes thrown upon him, in addition to those he has been sweated in. This is done to make the Horse sweat the more, and he stands thus for a time, panting before he is stripped for scraping; that with being thus worked, clothed and stoved, it so affects him at times, that he keeps breaking out in fresh sweats, that it pours from him, when scraping, as if water had been thrown on him. Nature cannot bear this. The Horse must dwindle. I think in the first place, that the Horse has been too long at this sort of work for his sinews, then the clothing and stoving forces his juices from him, in such quantities as must destroy his spirits, strength and speed; and much clothing dejades Horses. A Horse don't meet with this destruction when he runs, for then he is likely to be lighter in his carcase, lighter in his feet, having plates on, not shoes, which is wonderfully in favour of his sinews; and he is without clothes, and not stoved, and his Course in running is very seldom more than four miles; therefore, this difference in sweating and running is immense.—It is ignorant cruelty in the great number of Horses being unskilfully lamed at *Newmarket*, and Gentlemen not only lose the use of their Horses and their money by it, but it so greatly deprives them of their Sport that they otherwise would have."

The following observations also of *Chifney*, are

well entitled to attention—"Some few, I am informed, have a way of pinching their Race Horses in their meat and water. This is another way of perishing a Horse in his spirits and strength. When a Horse is too large in his carcase, he should be well fed, as Horses, I believe, for the most part of them are, at *Newmarket*, and instead of pinching him in his water, when a Horse is greedy of it, he should be watered very often, and at all times as much as he will drink; he will then drink less, and become straight and strong in his carcase." There is scarcely a more stupid or more harmful prejudice existing, than the old favourite one of stinting the Horse in his water.

To Persons accustomed to Running Horses, their *full* sinews, actual lamenesses, and being so frequently *amiss*, are unfortunately no novelty. This Horse is seldom *well to run*—that is *off his feed*, and does not stand training well, and the other having taken his last Sweat, is in the loose Stable with his near leg bound up, and instead of running his Match, must pay forfeit. Many a letter to this melancholy tune, from the head Groom, reaches the hands of the chagrined and disappointed Sportsman. Now, sufficient to Horse Coursing, are the natural evils thereof, without any of the adscititious and avoidable kind, into which therefore a patient and persevering enquiry, both theoretical and experimental, is necessary to all those who have the bowels to do justice to the Horse, and the discernment to know their own real interest.

There are some however, to whom I wish to make my bow, and assure them, I have no ambition to disturb their repose. These Sportsmen and trainers of Horses, neither know nor care, one penny about their Horse, than merely as he is the medium of their momentary gratification, and of the winning or losing their money; taking every thing on trust from their Groom, and limiting their acquisition of knowledge to that of the *slang* of the Stable, the customs of the Course, and the rules of Betting. The material question is—are not Running Horses even yet, overtrained, and do not their lamenesses and ailments arise, in a greater degree, from their exercise, than from their actual Racing: and would they not be able to race equally well, under a more mild and uninjurious system? This question, like a multitnde of others, particularly of the Agricultural Class, will continue to be asked through half a Century—twenty years beyond the period prescribed by *Chamfort*, for the establishment of a new opinion—without the slightest regard from those, who have it in their power to put it to the test, independently either of additional trouble, expence or inconvenience. Be it, since it must be so—yet by perseverance, by running well to the Whip, and by the blood and game of sound natural logic, we may at last, come through. I am about to repeat that, which in substance, was proposed to the Sporting World, two or three and twenty years ago, and which if I was rightly informed, the late *Duke of Bedford*

acknowledged was, in his opinion, perfectly rational, and entitled to attention.

In training two and three Year olds, not merely the delicate and slender, but those of a large and premature growth, in which their natural weight above, may be a sufficient trespass on their lower joints, it is proposed to omit the usual sweats altogether, substituting a periodical racing Gallop of three or four miles, in their common Clothes, without any additional weight, or intention of exciting profuse and preternatural perspiration. The same method also, to be tried with Horses of any Age, which are either delicate feeders, or weak in the sinews or joints. In fine, it would be a great point gained, if the old method of sweating the Racer could be dispensed with, universally: and the best step towards it, and for the ascertainment of its merits, would be to match Horses, with the condition that, none of them should be sweated. This would at least, be fair, on all hands. It is well known that, *Sir Charles Bunbury's* Horses have long been trained and treated in a manner far more mild, than according to the customary practice; yet have I never heard of any of the honourable and compassionate Baronet's Horses, brought to the Post, in a condition unfit to run, or that they have in general, run their course in a form inferior to those of other Sporting Gentlemen. For some particulars of the *Bunbury Method of training*, I must for want of room, refer to the *Delin. of the Race Horse.* We have happily got

quit of much of much of the *stoving* in hot and suffocating Stables, and of the excessive and debilitating Purgation of former Days. Even the malignant and bewitching *humours* always supposed to be resident in the body of the Horse, have been nearly laughed and exorcised out of it, since the salutary horse-laugh originally raised against them by *Gibson and Bracken*; and could we but both reason and *experiment* away the exhausting, enfeebling, spirit-quelling, crippling *Sweat*, we should render our Training and Running Stable System very near to perfection; which indeed already is, with the above stated exceptions, the most correct, maturely considered and comfortable to the Horse, of any other in existence.

Bred Horses are generally supposed prone to accumulate internal fat, which, while it is suffered to remain, must necessarily impede the functions of the lungs, and limit the action, or ascent and descent of the *diaphragm* or *midriff*. Constant, regular and moderate exercise will be effectual, sufficiently to disperse this superfluous fat, and gradually to accustom the *diaphragm* to quick motion, in the same manner as the muscles, the limbs and every part of the body in which motion is centered, are habituated to it. The *diaphragm* is a material and vital organ, in the affair of speedy progression, and a Man may acquire a useful analogy, by his own experimental running. On taking his first run, and before the habit has been established by exercise, he will find that, he can

use comparatively, little speed, and that for a short distance, before a sharp sensation of pain and stoppage about the midriff will take place, the action of which will seem to cease in an instant without his being able to renew it; and being driven forcibly beyond this point it is, which so often occasions Horses to drop down under the abuse, the *diaphragm* being ruptured. But the Man in training, as well as the Horse, will experience, on every successive day's exercise, an increased facility of motion, both internal and external, until in due time, he shall have arrived at his utmost power of performance. Mr. *Astley Cooper*, a Surgeon of eminence, in stating several human cases, remarks that, Race Horses when preternaturally animated, not uncommonly fall suddenly from a rupture of the *diaphragm*; and *Horace* of old, supposed Horses past their prime, most liable to this accident—

Solve senescentem, maturè sanus, equum, ne
Peccet in extremum, ridendus, et ilia ducat.

The above Professor gives an instance of a female Pauper who was through life, utterly incapable of labour, but as no disease or impediment could be discovered, she was accused of laziness. Her disposition however, was the reverse, and in one of her last endeavours to exert herself, she expired. On examination of the body, the *diaphragm* appeared imperfect. A similar example was ad-

duced, some years since, in the *Medical Journal.* A Seaman on board a Ship of War, declared himself incapable of duty, from a pain under his breast and shoulder, upon the least exertion. His story being discredited, as not sanctioned by his appearance, he was treated with harshness and even punished, by being drawn up with the tackle, on which strain on his arms and shoulders, an internal abscess burst, poured out a vast quantity of matter, and cleared the poor Man's character. Something of this kind also lately happened at *Walsham* near *Chelmsford*, in *Essex*, as was stated in a public Paper, by a Rev. Clergyman and Magistrate. A man applied to the Parish for support, as being always unable to labour. Support it seems, was refused. To apply these examples to the case of Horses, especially Racers, and to warn Proprietors; inability, from internal and concealed defects, in unfortunate Animals, to perform all which is required of them, is far more often the cause of their failure, than the want of will.

On the external flesh and plumpness of muscle, which some hardy and good feeding Horses will carry, in spite even of severe exercise, I cannot do better than make another Quotation—" With respect to the hardy Horse, who thrives in his exercise, and maugre the laudable diligence of the training Groom, still appears too fat to run, I conceive there is a more certain rule of judgment than by the eye. If such a Horse is ready and active with his legs, if, in his Sweats and brushing

Gallops, his bellows work clear and unembarrassed, his apparently superfluous flesh will never make him a pound worse, whether in one mile or four, although I am convinced the common attempts to get it off, invariably do." Here we have the *jit*—if he be already well to run, why incur the risk of debilitating him, of blunting the edge of his speed and detracting from his power of continuanee, by farther attempts to lower his condition, which must be affected by loading him with heavy dead weight, and stretching his sinews to the utmost of their tone? The firm, solid and elastic flesh, which a Horse sometimes will carry, in spite of eight or ten weeks regular training, ought not to be looked upon, as it appears to be, in the light of a similar burden to the Racer, as the external weight which he has to carry; on the contrary, it is far more probable to form a natural and needful part of the aggregate of his muscular powers, which enable him to carry that external weight. With respect to active speed, we know by constant experience, that too much or too long training, is never any friend to it, however it may promote the power of continuance. Speed materially depends on the freshness, elasticity and healthy tone of the sinews, which one would suppose can scarcely be promoted by a weekly laborious and fatiguing Gallop of four or six miles, under a weight alive or dead, of perhaps fifteen or sixteen stone; the Horse not perhaps fairly able to race with twelve—all horses beside, whatever their powers, age, nature, or constitution,

being treated in the same way. If there be any satisfactory experimental proofs to invalidate the above arguments, such have not reached me; I have never heard any other plea for the necessity of forcibly reducing Running Horses to the state of *bone leanness*, than that of custom and opinion, and to dismiss this part of the subject, granting that a severe method of training would ensure a somewhat greater superiority of performance, would it not be preferable on all hands, to give up such an advantage, if an advantage it can be deemed, for compassion sake in the first instance, and for the considerable benefits of preserving the limbs of the Horses in a sound state, and more to be depended upon, and of lengthening the duration of their services?

The above ideas, however, matured in the mind, and confirmed by the practical habits of the Writer, are not presumptuously thrust upon the Trainers of Horses, in the shape of arbitrary direction, but respectfully submitted to their better judgment and experimental investigation.

The Jockey-Seat on Horseback, differs materially, in position, from that of the *Riding School*. The latter is preserved by the balance or equipoise of the body, solely; the former by the firm grasp of the thighs, and the knees particularly, confirmed by the opposite directions of the knees and toes, the one turned *in*, the other somewhat outwards, and in a small degree elevated. There must be a concentration of muscular power and energy,

in the Rider's arms and shoulders, and breast and knees, for the holding and support of his horse. The spine, or back bone of the Jockey, must always be prepared to bend in the middle; since in the Horse's running, there is a necessity for some inclination of the body forward, and nothing can be more awkward and ridiculous, than a Horseman leaning forward, with a back as straight and stiff as a stake, his posteriors protruded in the same degree. The true Seat is naturally, easily, and upright in the Saddle, as in a Chair, the knees about as much bent; the legs falling nearly straight down the Horse's sides, and the feet home in the Stirrups; the hands somewhat above the pommel of the Saddle, elbows close to the sides, and the view directed between the Horse's ears. Jockey riding is, in truth, something between sitting and kneeling, and the length which a Man rides, should be so regulated, that he may be, as it were, buoyant in his stirrups, without being so much elevated above the saddle, as to depend on the bridle for his support; at the same time, he must not ride so long, as to sit a dead weight upon his Horse. A Man who rides too short, and is elevated too much above the saddle, must necessarily have a vacillating and uncertain seat. The portrait of *Chifney* on the *Prince's Baronet*, perhaps exhibits as true a Jockey Seat as can be found. This Seat is also adapted to the TROTTING RACE, and indeed is proper, and Sportsman-like generally, whether for the Road or Field; although it must be acknow-

ledged that, of late years and since the Military *mania* has bewitched our Country, the Riding House mode, of no more than the toe or ball of the foot in the stirrup, has prevailed to a considerable degree. We have seen directions too of late, in print, for the Jockey to turn his toe in, and his heel out, *à lá militaire;* as though, like *Watty Cockney*, it were apprehended he could not otherwise keep his spurs out of the Horse's sides. A groundless apprehension in a well-seated Jockey, who of the two, will find the greatest difficulty in reaching his Horse's sides with his spurs.

Riding a Race.—It is well known that, the grand point in *Chifney's* curious Book, is riding a Racer with a slack rein, a notion in which there is doubtless some reason, but which he carried to a theoretic and impracticable excess. It may be conceded that, the Jockeys of the old School, were perhaps, accustomed to pull too hard at their Horses, their favourite maxim, being—*prick 'em and pull 'em*; but there is certainly a medium between such practice, and *Chifney's* 'pulling with a silken rein as fine as a hair, and that you were afraid of breaking it,' which is perhaps merely a fine spun notion of his eccentric brain, since in most cases, you must hold a Horse sufficiently close, to keep him together and steady; nor can you otherwise regulate the speed of a Horse, to make the most of him. Fairly pulling at a Racer whilst he has the full liberty of extending his neck and head to the utmost, can never obstruct his wind or shorten

his stroke, and I have always heard and experienced that, running Horses, those especially called *Snaffle Bridle* Horses, love a pull, accompanied with the well-known *wriggle*, which at any rate, *seems* to the Rider, as if it increased their speed, and many Horses, from habit probably, will slacken their speed, on the rein being slacked. However, the *silken rein* can have nothing to do in a *waiting* race. *Chifney* says that at the run in and the last extremity, 'the Horse's mouth should be eased of the weight of his rein; if not, it stops him little or much,' which is in plain English, you must loose the Horse entirely, and give him his head, which I believe has always been the usual practice, and I have nothing farther to say upon it, than it has often appeared to me that, a Horse all abroad and at the utmost extremity of his speed, being suddenly loosed, is liable in consequence, to elevate his fore quarters, and perhaps to lose ground. Those in the constant habit of riding, ought to be the most correct judges in this case.

The Rider of the speediest Horse will, in course, make a waiting Race, that is to say, keep behind at a favourable distance, in order to preserve his Horse's superior speed for the last run. The distance must not however be too considerable, by which error many Racers have been lost. For example, in a Sweepstakes, where the speediest and best Horses have sometimes waited so long on each other, that the Rider of an inferior and unnoticed Horse has taken the advantage, and advanced so far, that at last, the best could not overtake him.

The speedy Horse must be favoured also, over heavy ground and up-hill. The opposite directions will consequently, serve for the slow and stout Horse. In making the play however, which is taking the lead, and especially in a four-mile race, it must be considered that, the stoutest Racer may be run to a stand-still, therefore the Rider must not at first take too much upon his Horse, but keep a few pulls in hand for an occasion; yet go along at such a rate, as to keep his speedier antagonist at warm work, wearing him out by degrees; in such a race, the stoutest Horse will win, unless he is greatly out-footed. In a race of a single mile, or a mile and half, between a speedy Horse, with the common defect of that Class, inability to run *up to his foot*, and a stout and honest Horse, that will run through the piece, it may be necessary for the Rider of the latter, to set off *at scores*, and run all the way through, attending only to the single consideration that, he does not blow or burst his Horse, of which he ought to be a judge. By this mode of riding it was, that *Shark* was enabled to beat both *Fireaway and Masquerade*, a single mile *against their will*; either of which, notwithstanding *Shark's* high form, would easily have thrown the dirt in his face, for half the distance, which the Mare indeed, previously had done; but *Shark* took them off at such a *bat*, and maintained it so steadily, as to take all the running out of them in the course of a mile. The expression of *going off at scores*, or full speed, is derived from the old

practice in the field, of running a burst of a certain number of score yards. And it may be proper in this place, to advert to the distinct qualities in the Racer, of *stoutness* and *honesty*, a discrimination seldom made, but to be aware of which, may be sometimes of consequence. A Horse may be honest, without being stout; that is, he may have the will, perhaps the ambition to run to his last sob, but be deficient in physical power—he faints, he sinks internally, his lungs, his limbs refuse any longer to perform their office with their highest energy, and his pace is compulsively slackened. The stout, but not honest Horse, will occasionally slacken his pace, and suffer himself to be beaten without any of the above symptoms, or appearances of debility: perhaps there is some analogy in this case, with that of the Cart Horse, which however in general, a capital drawer, never will or can draw *dead pulls*. It would be difficult to discuss satisfactorily this Point, as it regards the Racer; but it may be fairly insisted on, abuse with the whip and spur, never succeeds in the case; and in fact, Horses are well known to have their *running days*, and there are so many obvious and constantly recurring impediments to racing exertion, and the edge or extreme of speed is so delicate a thing, that we may well wonder at the degree of certainty, which we are accustomed to witness on the Course. In WHIPPING the Horse, the hand of the Rider is elevated above his head, that the strokes may proceed from the extremity of the

whip. SPURRING is performed by turning the toe outward, and giving quick strokes. In making the last run, it is an object to keep the *whip hand*, and to avoid being hemmed in by the other Horses; it is also politic and usual, not to win the race *too hollow*, when in the Jockey's power, that the extent of his Horse's abilities may not be known. The winning by the shortest possible distance, is one great and difficult part of the business of the Rider.

After a few words on the manner in which WHIPPING and SPURRING are performed, a practice too easily acquired for the credit of our humanity, it would ill become me, to remain silent on its real use and gross abuse. It is consoling, however, to reflect on our improvement, and that we come far short of the barbarity, of former times. The *rationale* of the use of the whip and spur, is as follows. There is a natural emulation in the breast of the Horse, to excel another of his species opposed to him in the race. This passion differs in degree, in different Horses; in some, it exists as has been already described in the greatest excess; in others, it is moderated by opposite inclination, either to sheer indolence, or an interested principle of saving themselves, which is sufficiently apparent; and to habitual exercise and contention with other Horses, which puts an end to its novelty, and also nearly to the original passion of rivalship. With regard to the first, or hot-tempered Horses, they should be almost entirely out of the

question. *Parce, puer, stimulis, & fortius utere loris,* is a proper direction for a Jockey, about to start upon a hot and speedy Horse—Spare whip and spur, and trust to a strong arm and *check* rein. The stout or *lurching* Horse, which well knows how to spare himself, must be forcibly driven, in order to elicit his utmost performance. There are some styled *good whipped Horses*, which absolutely will not run without the stimulus of the whip and spur, and which they take with the utmost *non chalance* and forbearance. But even with these, excess, as in all other cases, defeats its proposed end; and when a Horse has reached his utmost possible point of exertion, it is indisputable that, all the whipping and spurring which could be administered by the arms and legs of even that butcher on horseback, *Jack Oakley*, were he now living, could not push him one hair's breadth beyond. There is another material consideration, too little attended to, the effect which severity must have upon a Horse, in the above mentioned state—say for example, upon the stoutest and best whipped Horse. Granting that they, who use this severity, have any rational or reflective motive, it can be no other, than to keep the Horse up *to his mark.* But surely heart-oppressing and deadening discouragement cannot do this, and despair itself may fail; and the Horse confounded, yet still willing to make farther exertion if possible, may be more likely to lift himself up and lose ground, than be able to maintain his stroke. This, I have a tho-

rough conviction is often the case, at the run in, where the most disgusting and barbarous cutting up Horses alive, is even yet in use, which is witnessed by Persons who from their education and condition, surely ought to be able to reflect and feel, with a complacence nearly allied to approbation. Oh! what famous whipping and cutting at the coming in! The distress and misery of the Animals never occupies a thought, and whipping and Horse Racing, both with Children of a small and larger growth, seem to be inseparable and equally delectable ideas. Many a Jockey, I am equally convinced, who is lauded to the Skies, for winning by half a neck, through the force of his brave cutting up of his Horse, might have won by a whole length, had he fortunately lost his whip, and touched his Horse's sides repeatedly, but gently with his spurs.

Horses which incline to be restiff, and to swerve, it is well known, will seldom run to the whip. But there is a far more important Class, which, however well they will endure the whip and spur used with moderation, have a most resentful and indignant stomach on their abuse, which never fails to make them careless and indifferent in their exertions, and even to abate in their speed, the instant abuse takes place. Among the many examples of this kind, which I have known, I had once a most striking one in a Mare, stout as the day is long, and honesty itself, which would have answered every light and moderate stroke of

the whip and spur, I really believe, to bursting and even death itself, yet she never would endure abuse, or being cut up, but always ran the worse for it. I have seen her whipped and lose ground—encouraged the next instant and recovering her lost ground, pointing her ears, straining, and greedily covering space, to the utmost of her powers. Accidents also, have frequently happened from *foul cuts* with the whip: the old Duke of Cumberland had a winning Horse brought to a dead stop within half a distance of the Ending Post, by a stroke of this description upon a delicate part under the flank. Every old Sportsman has heard of *Pittman's Damper*, a stout and true Runner, when fairly and properly used: I was assured at the time by several competent judges and eye-witnesses, that, Damper was *poisoned for the Race*, with the whip and spur, by a certain Jockey, *Oakley*, if my memory serve me correctly, more than once. No doubt, *Oakley* supposed such the only mode of urging the Horse to do his best, and that he was doing his duty to admiration. To speak of Jockies of the regular and superior Class, we generally have had upon the Turf, and at present have, men of that description, of very respectable character, and who have opportunities of fairly acquiring property. Men in their critical and ticklish employ, are necessarily exposed to a variety of difficulties, and that of their treatment of the Horse in a Race, is not the least. They are too often, and I speak from the confidential acknowledg-

ments of some of them, to myself, under the necessity of cutting up and abusing a Horse, utterly in contradiction to their own better judgment and inclination; in many instances to their abhorrence. The Anecdote has already been published, of the miscreant Blackguard, who gave the following orders to *William Barnes*—'Make him win, or cut his bloody entrails out—mark, if you don't give him his belly full of whip, you never ride again for me. I'll find Horse if you'll find whip and spur!' I saw the little Horse after running three terrible four mile heats, 'literally cut up alive,' and may I never again witness such, a blasted and blasting sight! The old direction, in the last extremity, to spur a Horse 'in the fore bowels,' as the tenderest and most vital part, is savage, detestable, and stupidly useless. A Jockey in the constant practice of riding, soon finds out the trim of his Horse, when he is at all in his power to do, and when and where driving may be necessary or useful; but unless a Proprietor have something like a competent knowledge of this also, it may be difficult to convince him that, the most has been done for his interest, otherwise than in the disgusting method above reproved. It is surely requisite, both with respect to their interest and their credit, that, sporting Gentlemen should give themselves the trouble of acquiring a sufficient knowledge of the nature and management of an Animal, the source of so much both of pleasure and profit." "A defect of such knowledge exposes them to a double risk,

from the ignorance and unfaithfulness of their servants, and too often to the ridiculous and galling dilemma of being almost compelled to retain such as are insolent, or against whose character there may be well-founded suspicions. Allowing all the acuteness, which has been, with much reason, ascribed to Grooms and Jockies, there are niceties in the business of the Turf, to the comprehension of which a certain culture and expansion of the mind, are absolutely necessary."

But the chief of the CRUELTIES in Horse Racing, which yet remain to disgust us, are perpetrated in Matches upon the Road, made for the most part, by low bred, unprincipled persons, and equally ignorant of the properties and powers of the Horse, and the nature of Racing. Nearly or quite fifty years have passed, since the inhuman sacrifice of the poor old FLEA-BITTEN GREY HORSE; but it ought to be held in remembrance, as a mark for stern and unequivocal detestation, and not to be, as it was, smoothed and unctioned over, with a shake of the head and a grave hypocritical countenance, which, if they mean any thing seriously, it is in a doubtful and suspicious way. This excellent Animal, a Gelding, three parts bred, had won a Match of *twenty-two miles* within the hour, upon the *Windsor Road*; but the same Match being repeated, he failed; and was whipped in, the last mile, until his entrails trailed after him, upon the ground!—attended on each side, by furies of Hell, in the human shape, expres-

sing in their eyes and countenances, the greedy and demon-like thirst of gain, or apprehension of loss! I had the particulars from old *Jack Medley*, at one of his Dinners, but, *ohe! jam satis*—enough of this. The late conduct of the Inhabitants of *Ipswich, in Suffolk*, towards a Butcher, who in a Match, had trespassed unfairly upon the powers of a Mare, is highly meritorious, and deserving of universal imitation. His customers in a body, refused any longer to deal with him, but on the condition of making public acknowledgment of his crime, and profession of his repentance, with which he very satisfactorily complied, and I trust to his own conviction. The noble example of *Ipswich* being generally followed, its spirit being applied to varying circumstances, would operate powerfully towards the desired reform. The authenticity of *old Frampton's* barbarity to his Race Horse, *Dragon*, as related in the *Adventurer*, is in a course of investigation. *Dr. Hawksworth's* words are remarkable as to the fact—'*which indeed I remembered to be true.*' Another cruelty of former times, towards the Race Horse, which I trust can now no longer exist is, giving him *laudanum* or other deleterious drugs, or a load of water before starting, in order to depress his powers, and incapacitate him to win. The salutary trial and its event, for POISONING Race Horses, it is to be hoped will be an everlasting warning.

It is customary to repeat accounts of the performances of different Race Horses, which have

been *timed*. I have already noted those of the *Devonshire Childers*. *Eclipse* was never timed, but it was *judged*, or perhaps some persons might look at their watches on the occasion, that he ran four miles over *York*, in *eight* minutes, carrying *twelve stone*. He won more twelve stone, or *Royal Plates*, than any other Racer. *Bay Malton* ran four miles at York, in 1766, with eight stone seven pounds, in seven minutes forty three seconds and half. *Merry Bachelor*, in *Jennison Shaftoe's* great Match, ran twenty-five miles in one hour. *Firetail*, beating *Pumkin*, ran a mile at Newmarket in 1773, with eight stone, in one minute four and a half seconds, but no Horse has hitherto been proved capable of running a mile within a minute of time; nor has it been yet ascertained, how many miles a Race Horse is capable of running within the hour. Long and distressing Races were formerly in use upon the Turf, the discontinuance of which, is among the number of modern improvements. Even four mile Races, or as it is styled, running over the Course, are not so frequent as formerly.

In stating the case of the stouter beating the more speedy Horse, in a mile race, by going off at scores and running through the piece, I revived the old example of *Shark*, instead of adducing a very late and striking illustration. In the *Newmarket Craven* Meeting 1816, Mr. Neville's chesnut Colt, *Sir Joshua*, by *Rubens*, 8 stn. 2 lb., beat Mr. Houldsworth's bay Colt *Filho da Puta* (Son

of a Whore) 8 stn. 9 lb. R. M. (Rowley Mile) 1000 gs. h. f. (half forfeit) 11 to 8 and 6 to 4 on *Sir Joshua*. I was not present, but a Sporting Friend assured me that, the little Horse, *Sir Joshua*, by going off at scores, had beaten his antagonist at the end of half a mile, and that from thence, it was an easy race. *Filho da Puta* is nearly seventeen hands high, and was the great *kill-devil* of the North, where it was reported, his speed was equal to that of *Eclipse*. Such was the difference of the size of the Horses, in this mile Race, that the seven pounds weight given, could be deemed comparatively little or nothing.

Not to confine my citations entirely, to the celebrated Horses of times long past, I shall give a few *memorabilia* of a Stallion of the present day—SMOLENSKO, the property of Sir *Charles Bunbury*, which during his racing career, excited a greater share of the public curiosity, than any of the most famous of his Predecessors, in 1813, won the two great Stakes in the *Newmarket* Spring Meetings, immediately afterwards the *Derby Stakes* at *Epsom*, and the *Magna Charta Stakes* at *Egham*, in the following August. It was even betting for the *Derby*, between Smolensko and the Field, and an unfortunate Gentleman backing the Field to a large amount, had not sufficient firmness of mind to bear up against the consequence of his own imprudence. A few days however before the Race, a report getting abroad that the Horse was lame, and he being seen without one of his shoes, *Sir*

Charles Bunbury took and won, five and six hundred pounds to ten, three times over. The betting soon returned to its former state. At this time the Newspapers were filled with Smolensko, and he was by them represented, as the speediest Horse which had appeared since *Eclipse*, and—' unlike Eclipse only, in his coolness and want of driving.' All the world went to *Epsom* to witness the performance of this new *Eclipse*. On his return to London, he was ordered from *Tattersall's* for the inspection of *His Royal Highness the Regent*. Many Persons were desirous of purchasing this Horse, and there seems no doubt that, four or five thousand Pounds might have been obtained, had the Proprietor been desirous to part with him. On the approach of the *Egham* Meeting, the Public Papers were again full of SMOLENSKO, and a Turnpike Man upon the road declared that, in twenty Years, he had not seen such crowds pass his gate, of Carriage Company, Horse and Foot, the latter of all descriptions, and all for the purpose of getting a sight of the famous black Horse. Many had come eighteen or twenty miles on foot, returning through the Gate, till two o'clock in the Morning. Crowds gathered round him on the Course, and he was then exhibited to Her Majesty the Queen, and the Princesses on the Royal Stand. A man actually offered *Sir Charles Bunbury* two hundred Pounds for the use of his Horse, to make a Show of, and there is no doubt, but that *Sir Charles*, could he have done such a thing,

might have made five hundred Pounds by exhibiting him in London! Among the curious tattle at *Egham*, on the subject of this wonderful Horse, it went about that the day before the Race, he had been stinted of his meat and water, according to the old System, most probably a *hoax* of the Groom, by way of answer to some sage enquiry; it however reached the ears of *Sir Charles*, who remarked to his informant that, should a servant of his make so gross a breach of his orders, 'he would never eat any more of his beef and pudding.' It was reported, Sir Charles challenged all England, offering to take four pounds and run his Horse against any Horse of his year, his Horse not to take a sweat. *Smolensko* was one of the healthiest, quietest, and best tempered Horses, that ever was trained. He is about sixteen hands and half high, full brother to *Thunderbolt*, got by *Sorcerer*, a son of *Trumpater*, and his Pedigree is filled with our oldest and highest racing Blood.

All Racing transactions and information relative to the Turf, are well known to be comprised in the annual Volume, or *Racing Calendar*, published by Messrs. Weatherby, of Oxendon Street, London. These Calendars commence in 1727. *Gard's Guide to the Turf*, *Bodger's* Prints of the *Newmarket* Courses and Exercise Ground, and the *General Stud Book*, may be there purchased. I have been induced by curiosity, to make the following comparative report—According to the *Calendar* for 1758, there were then in *England*, *seventy* Courses, in

which regular annual Races were held, and one in *Scotland*, and *sixteen* covering Stallions advertised. In 1777 *ninety-one* Courses in *England*, *three* in *Scotland*, and *eleven* in *Ireland*, and *eighty-nine* Stallions advertised. In 1816 *eighty-two* Courses in *England*, *three* in *Wales*, *nine* in *Scotland*, *six* in *Ireland*, and *fifty-seven* Stallions advertised to cover in *England*. It is probable that, the most flourishing period of the Turf, may be deemed that between the Years 1766 and 1784.

In the *Racing Calendar*, a very useful CAUTION is given respecting *Posts*, which is applicable to all Race Courses. For cautions necessary to be taken, to prevent those FATAL ACCIDENTS which so frequently occur at Races, I beg leave to refer *Stewards* of Races, and all who are concerned with the business of the Turf, to the following Letters, in the Sporting Magazine, under the signature of 'a Bit of a Jockey.' The first Letter in the Magazine for July 1813, No 250, p. 172; the second in the next No. for August, p. 203. In the second Letter, specific Measures are recommended, which, according to another Letter in the Magazine for August 1816, No. 287, p. 202, were put in practice at Oxford, with the utmost success. This last Letter being short, I transcribe it, with the view of refreshing the memory of those, who are most interested in promoting security and comfort at our Racing Meetings; in fact, it is the concern of every one who attends them—

"In your Magazine for August 1813, 'A Bit of a Jockey,' recommends certain measures for the prevention of Accidents at Races, and I think he is entitled to the thanks of every Sportsman and Clerk of a Course in the Kingdom. I shall now acquaint you with a novelty never before witnessed at *Oxford* Races, in the memory of the oldest man living—namely, that on that occasion, there was not a single person within the lines, during three days Races, except such as were on business, and not the smallest violence was offered to any one. The manner in which this was accomplished, was as follows:—About a score of foot Constables and two horse ditto, were employed—the foot were all stout young men, selected for the purpose, and specially sworn before the Mayor of the City, who strictly charged them to do their duty, and to offend no one: accordingly, as soon as the Bell rung for saddling, the Constables in a body, with long staves, requested all the Company to retire on the right side of the lines, which are double on each side, and where there is ample room for them all. They readily complied, and in fact, were so well pleased with their new situation, that the Horse Constables had very little to do, and were found useless after the first day. I would advise all Clerks of Courses, who may wish to adopt this salutary example, to select their men as before stated, and to have them specially sworn, by which they will be protected from insult, and any one obstructing them will be liable to pro-

secution. There were also *boards* up at different parts of the Course, strictly forbidding persons to cross whilst the Horses were running, on pain of the severest prosecution.

(Signed) " *Another Bit of a Jockey.*

" *August* 19, 1816."

The uncertainty of Horses, whether in the quality of Racers or Stallions, has been already described. It is an old saying upon the Turf—better to have a lucky Horse than a good one. Amongst a great number of examples, *Old Mask*, the reputed Sire of *Eclipse*, is an eminent one of the fickleness of fortune. *Mask*, when the joint property of *Lord Bolingbroke and Henry Compton, Esq.* of Bistern, Hants, was in such low repute as a Stallion, that according to report, he was suffered to cover *New Forest* Mares, merely for a Groom's fee, of perhaps, five or ten shillings; and at last was sold at the Hammer for *ten pounds*, between the Heats, at *Blandford Races*, to *Humphrey Sturt, Esq.* and in the following year's *Blandford Races*, was resold at the Ordinary, to *Mr. Wildman*, for *twenty pounds*. Both these sales were witnessed by a respectable Friend of mine, now living, and occurred probably about the Year 1760. *Mask* was again sold and re-sold for large sums, and died in the possession of *Lord Abingdon*, in whose Stud he covered at *two hundred Guineas* a Mare. As a fortunate Stallion, may be instanced a Horse named *Regulus*, which, according to the Public Prints, died 1812, having been the Sire of

three thousand Foals, hackney, hunting, and coaching Stock, it may be presumed, which produced upwards of eighty thousand Pounds.

An old dispute has existed, from the period at which HIGHFLYER went out of training—whether or not he was ever beaten? This arose, it is said, ftom the circumstance of another *Herod* Colt, the same property, and at the same time, being beaten, and that Colt being afterwards mistaken for *Highflyer*. The dispute being revived a few years since, received some countenance, from an examination of the Books of *Lord Bolingbroke's* Stud Groom, in which there is no account in the year when *Highflyer* was said to have been beaten, of any other Herod Colt in *Lord Bolingbroke's* possession. In 1815 I applied to the late *Mr. Goodison*, who assured me that *Highflyer* never was beaten: that on Tuesday October 14th, 1777, *Highflyer* ran his first Race in a Sweepstakes at *Newmarket*, in his proper name, ridden by *John Halliday*; among others, *William South* rode *Mr. Douglas's Bourdeaux, Brother to Florizel*; and *Richard Goodison, Lord Grosvenor's* Colt *Justice*, by *Herod*. In addition to this testimony, or rather that which ought exclusively to prove decisive, *Highflyer* stands named in the previous Year's *Calendar* to run the above Stakes.

The pace of TROTTING being applied to Horse Racing, although not on the Turf, but the Road, may be supposed to claim some notice; but having little space left for the subject, I refer Enquirers to

the *Philosophical & Practical Treatise on Horses, and to the Delineation of the Race Horse*, where it is treated somewhat particularly, and so far as I am informed, in no other Publication. I have found no account of trotting Matches in the old Writers, nor at what period the custom commenced of *rising in the Stirrups*, in trotting, nor do I know whether such mode of riding is practised in other Countries. Speed in the trot, as in the gallop, is not to be taught or acquired, although it may be improved by training. As a man must be *born* a Poet, so a Horse must be *born* a Trotter, or he certainly will never make one of any consequence, in a racing view. It depends chiefly, or entirely, on form. The utmost speed of the Trotter hitherto, has been ascertained by the Stop-Watch, to be a mile, in a *few seconds* less than *three minutes*; and sixteen miles in one hour, upon the common road, with the weight of twelve stone, seems to be the utmost which has been performed with that weight, unless it be fact that, the same was performed in 1792, in Lincolnshire, with fifteen stone. Thirty miles were trotted in two hours and ten minutes; and ten miles upon the Epsom road, in November 1810, by *Mr. Fielder's* Horse, in thirty minutes ten seconds; but of the authenticity of this last, I know nothing but from the public papers. The greatest performances in Harness, and with a light Carriage for the purpose, have been *two miles* in *six minutes and a half*, without distress; and *fourteen miles and a half* in *several minutes less*

than one hour, without distress likewise: this last was by a grey gelding the property of *Capt. Wombwell*, of the Guards, which had before trotted sixteen miles in one hour, carrying ten stone; an account of which, with remarks, may be seen in the *Sporting Magazine* for *October* 1816.

The Names of chief of the capital TROTTERS, within the last half Century, are as follows—SCHALES or SCOTT, a trotting Stallion, got by *Blank*, the Race Horse. USEFUL CUB, a trotting Stallion, got by a black Cart Horse, out of a Chapman's Mare. From those two Stallions, proceeded a great number of Trotters of the highest qualification. MONKEY—SHUFFLER—HUE AND CRY—PRETENDER, by *Hue and Cry*, out of a thorough bred *Pretender* Mare—ALLDRIDGE'S, afterwards BISHOP'S, brown Mare—BETTY BLOSS—MARSDEN'S one-eyed black Gelding—ARCHER—OGDEN'S chesnut Mare—CARTWRIGHT'S Gelding—BISHOP'S grey Gelding—SPIDER—PHENOMENA.—The LOCKSMITH'S grey Mare trotted, in 1782, seventy-two miles in six hours.

Robson's brown Mare *Phenomena*, attracted considerable attention, by trotting in July 1800, between *Huntingdon and Cambridge, seventeen miles in fifty-six minutes*; and afterwards, the same distance in less than *fifty-three minutes*; when her Owner offered to match her to perform *nineteen miles and a half, within the hour*; but the challenge was not accepted. These were doubtless extraordinary performances, but it was not consi-

dered, either by the Public, or the Trotting Jockies themselves, how much was to be allowed in the estimation, on account of the light weight she carried, namely, a *feather*, being ridden by a lad belonging to the Running Stables, weighing about five stone. She had not more speed with a feather, probably not so much, as former capital Horses carrying twelve stone and upwards, several of which would, in all probability, have performed with comparative ease, as much in an hour, with the same weight, as she did; or even perhaps, have actually accomplished the *ne plus ultra* of trotting—TWENTY MILES in one hour. Formerly, it was a maxim in trotting Races, that weight did not form a considerable object, and that a Rider of light weight was not calculated for the purpose, whence the matches were always made with catch weights, and very often a heavy one chosen, in preference, as was the case in *Archer's* Match, in which he carried nearly *twelve stone*.

About the year 1783, *Mr. Lawrence*, suspecting the rationality of this opinion, after consulting some Turf Jockies, made various trials, the result of which was, that weight had its proportional effect upon the speed and powers of the Horse, as well in trotting as galloping; and in consequence recommended in his Book published in 1796, the adoption of racing weights and Turf Riders in trotting Matches, which plan was adopted by the Proprietor of *Phenomena*. *Archer* and *Ogden's* Mare, from trials both public and private, were probably

the most capital Trotters, whether for speed or continuance, which have yet appeared. Although several Race Horses have bent their knees, and their action has been in a trotting form, yet only one has hitherto excelled as a Trotter. *Infidel*, by *Turk*, about thirty-five years since, after he was out of training, trotted *fifteen* miles in one hour, with ten stone, on the Road between *Carlisle* and *Newcastle*. In addition to the improvement of light weight, fine level Roads have been wisely chosen, of late years, for trotting Races. The old Trotters used to perform over the common rough Roads. On the general subject of *weight* in Racing, I wish to make a parting observation. Neither the accustomed weights for the year, nor the Give and Take weights, seem to me possible to be accommodated to the nature of the case. As examples, perhaps seven or eight pounds only, will be given when the ability to carry weight is strikingly different in the two Horses: on the other hand, in give and take weights, a Horse of fourteen hands will carry nine stone, and one of fifteen hands, eleven. Now nature may have reversed this scheme completely, by having enabled the lowest Horse to be master of the greatest weight. Matching with discretionary weights, or weight for age and qualifications, seems susceptible of more accuracy; and perhaps it may be yet discovered that, much more weight may be allowed on account of substance and strength, than has been hitherto supposed.

THE TURF LAWS.

Horse-Racing.—To prevent the multiplicity of Horse-Races, the Stat. 13, Geo. II. Chap. 19, directs, that no Plates or Matches under 50*l.* value shall be run for, on pain of Forfeiture of 200*l.* by the Owner of each Horse so running, and of 100*l.* by such Persons as advertise the Horse. And though the Owners of Horses may run them for a Stake of 50*l.* and upwards, at such Places as are or have been used for Horse-Races; yet if they run them upon the High-road, or any other place than those prescribed by the Statute, the Wager is illegal, and they are subject to the Forfeitures of the Statute.—4 Term Reports, p. 1.

But by an exception in the Statute, Races may be run at Newmarket and Black Hamilton for any Sum or Stake less than 50*l.*

Note.—Although Matches or Horse-Races, made according to the provisions of 13 Geo. II. Chap. 19, are legal, yet all Bets or Wagers above 10*l.* on them are Games within the Stat. 9 Anne, Chap. 14, and consequently void.—2 Blackstone's Reports, p. 706.

But though the Legislature has, in many instances, laid Wagering under particular restraints; yet the practice is not restrained by the Common Law, unless it may become injurious to public economy. And, therefore, all Wagers which are not contrary to sound policy, in the general interests of the community; or which are not made upon Games, or are likely to disturb the Public Peace, or to encourage immorality, or probably affect the interests, characters, or feelings of others, not Parties to the Wager, are legal, and may be recovered in a Court of Justice.

Engraved by J. Scott from a Painting by J. Barrenger.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row, Oct. 1. 1817.

COCK FIGHTING.

COCK-FIGHTING.

> Now hostile rage each daring foe maintains,
> And death, as fate inclines, alternate reigns:
> In various shapes the missive blow appears,
> And dire destruction 'midst the conflict bears---
> Now purple life unloads the turgid veins,
> And gushing down, the crowded Circus stains,
> Or stagnates, swells the throat, and vital air restrains.

Cock-fighting, or according to our fashionable, or professional abbreviation, Cocking, is a very ancient and classical Sport, and prevails to the present day, in the *East*, where they have a large and fierce breed of Cocks. This Sport, among modern *humanists* of a certain Class, who are influenced by a capricious feeling, not always moved in favour of real truth and utility, has always laid under an interdict. The same Class probably, or its cousin german, which, although it draws its daily subsistence from the flesh of the finest and most healthy Animals, will yet scruple to kill a poor Dog or Cat, in the lowest state of misery, preferring, out of mere human kindness, to suffer it to linger out its life in lengthened tortures, from desertion and want. Is not this indolent kind of humanity, nearly allied to a cowardly fear of death? Cock-fighting is pronounced in a breath—horrible! Weighed however, in the ba-

lance of reason and fact, it is attended with the least cruelty of all our Diversions, not even my favourite *Horse Racing* excepted. I shall be very expeditious with my proof—*The Game Cock is kept in a state of happiness and comfort, until the day of battle; he cannot then be forced, but in fighting is actuated by his natural instinct—is, in fact, gratified; and if he fall by his Adversary's weapon, he is the sooner out of the sense of Pain.* Let not the Reader however mistake me for an Advocate of Cock-fighting, for which in truth, I have no kind of relish, and probably, should feel almost as wearied and out of place, at the *Cock Pit Royal*, as at sitting to hear a long-winded puritanical Sermon, an entertainment, to which stale bread and sour small beer are luxuries. *Addison* wondered, that so few people enjoy the innocent and sportive play of Animals, whilst so many delight to witness their Combats. I have the honour to rank with Addison's minority. It has been one of the delights of my life, to play with Animals, without the smallest solicitude, whether, either four-legged or two-legged Animals may think me an Ass for my pains:

> For it has been held by many that,
> As *Montaigne* playing with his Cat,
> Complain'd she thought him but an Ass ——. HUD.

The lower and adandoned Class of *Cockers*, however, I hold in abomination; such as are aptly characterized in *Lemoine's* flash Song—

Flash Song—Sunday Dog-fighters.

A saucy rolling blade am I,
I keep a *Donkee Dick*;
Thro' London streets my wares I cry,
Up *peck* and *booze* to pick.

In Black-Boy alley I've a *ken*,
A *tyke* and fighting-cock;
A saucy tip-slang *moon-eyed hen*,
Who oft *mills Doll at Block*.

I'm known by all the deep ones well,
About Saltpetre Bank;
And always ready, *prigs* can tell,
To *gig* a Smithfield *hank*.

I'll race my Jack, or bait a bull,
Or fight my *doodle-doo*;
I'll *flash a quid* with any cull,
And *fly a pigeon blue*.

I'm up to all your knowing *rigs*,
Ye biddies queer and flash;
I'm company for *scamps* and *prigs*,
Sometimes for *men of cash*.

My *Mott* oft tips the knowing *dive*,
When *sea-crabs* gang the stroll;
Unless she did, how could we thrive,
And in *warm flannel* roll.

I shew more conscience in my whack
Than Fox*, with all his skill;
While he takes Houses on his back,
I but my pockets fill.

* Caricature of Fox with the India-House on his back.

Let those who entertain such enmity to Cock-fighters, rather transfer their hatred to *Dog-Fighters* and *Bull-hankers*, among the most villainous and barbarous of Blackguards—yet those aggressors on *rights* and humanity, have been immemorially allowed their *Sunday* diversions by our *Saints*, whilst the poor honest labourer is persecuted

for purchasing his hard and late earned meal on that day—and to which he hath hitherto submitted, with a patience almost miraculous—but

> Hypocrisy's the thrivenest Calling,
> The only Saint's-bell that tolls all in. HUDIBRAS.

COCKING generally accompanies the Diversion of the *Course*, and we find in the *Racing Calendar* for 1816, accounts of the *Mains of Cocks* fought at *Chester*, *Newton*, *Stamford*, *Nantwich*, *Newcastle*, *Lancaster*, *Preston* and *Swaffham*, the *Earl of Derby*, *Sir William Wynne*, *T. Legh, Esq.*, *W. F. Brockholes, Esq.* and *Rowlins Satterthwaite, Esq.* being the chief Gentlemen Cockers. In the *Metropolis* and *Environs*, there are several Cock Pits, but the Head-Quarters of the Sport, are the *Cock Pit Royal*, *Tufton Street*, *Westminster*, commencing each Night, at *a quarter before six*, precisely. The Year's Cocking usually begins soon after *Shrovetide*, and thanks to modern common sense, the ancient barbarous injustice of *throwing at Cocks*, at that Festival, is scarcely known in London.

With respect to breeding and feeding *Cocks*, and providing them with proper Walks, they who desire minute and particular information, will find their account in consulting *Mr. Sketchley's Cocker*, and *Mr. Moubray's Treatise on Poultry*. It will be found that Cockers have a similar prejudice in favour of this or that particular colour, or strain, as their Brethren of the Turf, have to fashionable Blood. However at last, thorough blood, size,

good form and good management are the essentials. The following hints are extracted from an original Letter of one of the greatest Cockers, who ever entered an English *Pit*.

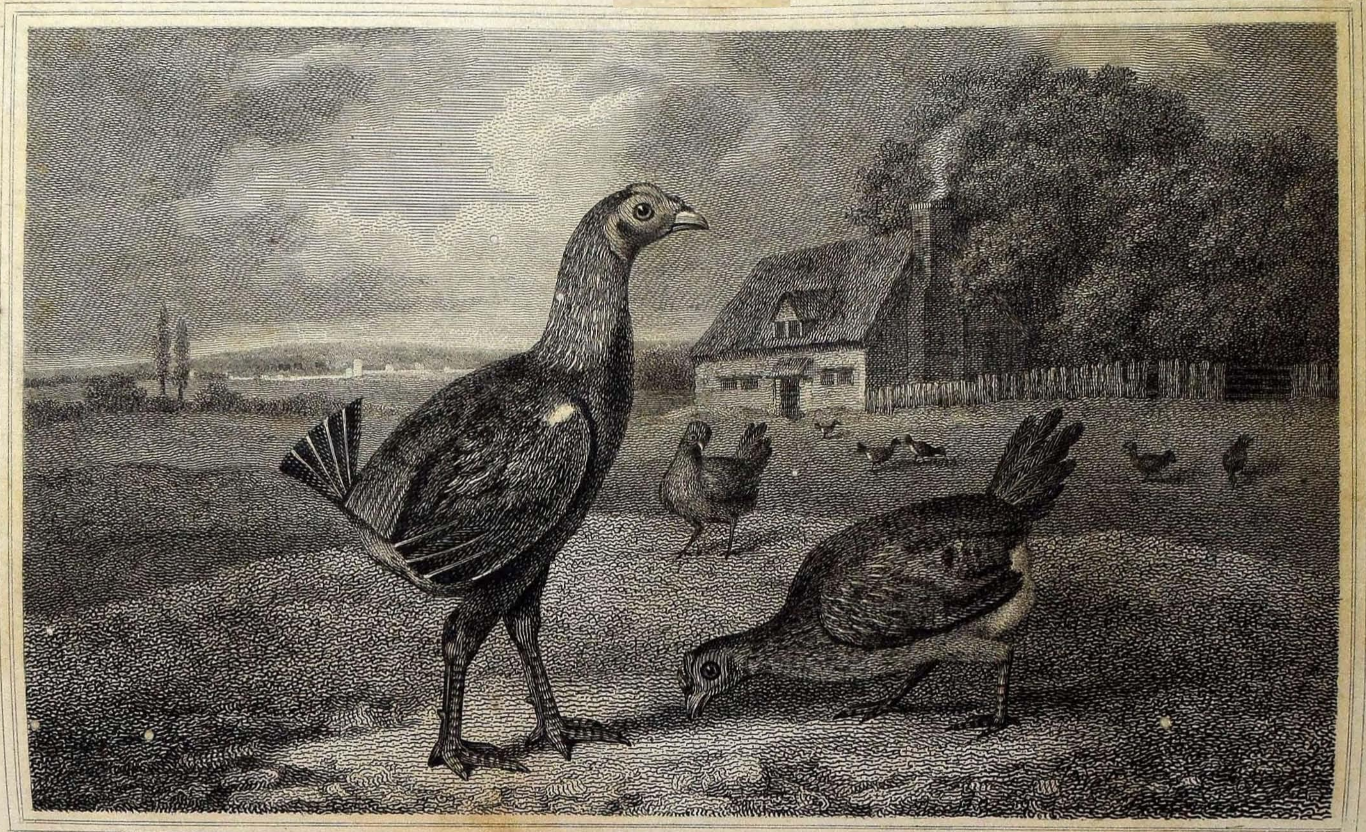
"Be sure be your own Matcher, and do not fight a Cock that is poor and low in condition; if it is said that your Cock is too high, venture, that is an error of the right kind. And a Cock that hath his due sparings, and only bread and water, cannot be in good condition and must be weak. Be sure you do not part with your best Cocks to those that love the Sport, for if you should, they will have as good as you have, which must not be. Never distrust your own abilities in Matching; you will be true to yourself, and if you practise it, I do see no reason, but that you may match as well as any man in England; you must take a special care to know the Cock again, you match against, and always make your match in another Man's name, that you may be chosen Matcher: if a Cock falls of a Match that you are not willing to fight, you may say they are not of a shape, and that the other is too long, or a better built Cock, or that your Cock is not in condition to fight, or a mere dunghill, or what else you are pleased to say.

"As for feeding, your bread ought to be two days old before it be cut, and it will keep four days more in a moist place: the stale bread will serve to make hot meat, which must be made of the pith of the bread, and not too great meals given to a Cock. Spare at four o'clock in the afternoon,

and take out of the *Stive*, at four in the Morning. Make some good ale boiling hot, and pour it on your bread that was cut the night before for that purpose; and by that time your Cocks are taken out of the stive, the bread will be soaked enough. Sometimes your Adversary in matching will handle his worst Cocks a whole day, against your best, and conclude no match with you; it is on purpose to hinder your Cocks from their meat, and worry out your good Cocks."—*Sporting Mag.*

In *Frampton's* time (1687) a Cock of the name of *Sourface*, and his Get, were in the highest repute, and the favourite object was to obtain Chickens of the 'right *shitten-winged* colour.' As to the old Sportsman's wiles and stratagems, could he make an early resurrection, and come again upon the *Sod*, he would find himself to his cost, above a distance behind modern improvement.

I am uninformed whether *Breads* are used in modern *Cock-feeding*, or discontinued, as in the feeding of *Race Horses*. The late *Sir Charles Sedley* and *Hugo Meynell, Esq.* were the legitimate Successors of *Tregonwell Frampton*, as the greatest Cockers of their days. The COCK is said to be in his prime and full vigour, at *two years* old, which he probably retains to his fifth year; the HEN somewhat longer. Cockers breed *in and in*, without scruple. The following is *Mr. Sketchley's* description of a BROOD-COCK, in full health and vigour—' *a ruddy complexion—feathers close and short, not cold or dry—flesh firm and compact*



Engraved by J. Scott from a Painting by J. Barrenger. *Published by Sherwood, Neely, & Jones, Paternoster Row, Oct. 1. 1817.*

GAME FOWLS.

—full breasted, yet taper and thin behind—full in the girth—well coupled—lofty and spiring—with a good thigh—the beam of his leg very strong—a quick, large eye—strong beak, crooked, and big at setting on.' Such a one, not more than *two years* old, to be put to early *Pullets;* or a *blooming Stag* with two year old Hens; and when a Cock, with Pullets of his own getting. Uniformity of COLOURS is generally sought, and the Hens selected of similar plumage to that of the Cock: the same of SHAPE, which is of a greater object in the Hen, than size; only she should be lofty crested, short and close feathered, with clean, sinewy, blood-like legs. *Shropshire* and *Cheshire* have been long famous for their breed of Game Cocks, and the *Shropshire reds* are in particular high estimation. There was formerly in *Staffordshire*, a famous breed of Cocks of a perfect *jet black*, gipsey faced, black legs, and rather elegant than muscular; lofty in fighting, close in feather, and well shaped. This breed soon degenerated, and I presume, is now extinct. The following *procreative* COMPARISON of *Mr. Sketchley*, speaks Volumes, and is therefore well adapted for a CONCLUSION.

Stag 1 year old with Hens 2 years old —	Man 18, Woman 22.
Cock 2 years old with Pullets —	Man 25, Woman 22.
Cock 2 years old with Hens 2 years old—	Man 25, Woman 22.
Cock 3 years old with Hens 3 years old—	Man 40 to 50, Woman 45.
Cock 4 years old with Hens 4 years old—	Man 50 to 60, Woman 45.

THE

FRESH WATER FISHERY.

This day Dame Nature seem'd in love;
The lusty sap began to move;
Fresh juice did stir th' embracing Vines;
And Birds had drawn their Valentines.
The jealous TROUT that low did lie,
Rose at a well-dissembled *fly*;
There stood my Friend with patient skill,
Attending of his trembling quill.
Already were the Eaves possest
With the *swift Pilgrim's* daubed nest;
The Groves already did rejoice,
In *Philomel's* triumphing voice:
The showers were short, the weather mild,
The Morning fresh, the Evening smil'd.

SIR HENRY WOTTON.

CERTAIN curious economical and moral Considerations obtrude themselves, as appertaining to this Subject. For the last twenty years, more especially, a rapidly increasing Population in this Country, has been attended with serious difficulties, both actual and prospective, on the score of necessary subsistence. Bread Corn has been deficient, and almost constantly imported within the above period, in a Country obviously capable of producing not only a sufficiency for a much more numerous Population, but to furnish a considera-

Engraved by J. Scott from a Painting by J. Elmer.

Published by Sherwood Neely & Jones Paternoster Row Feb 1. 1818.

DEAD FISH.

S 704

ble export Trade. In the mean time, animal Food, a part of subsistence of such vital consequence in this Climate, and to the constitutions of Englishmen, has been raised to such a price, as to be absolutely, excepting at intervals, out of the reach of immense Numbers of the inferior labouring Classes. On the *causes* of this national misfortune, it would be out of place, to dilate *here;* I merely introduce the facts, as a contrast, and to place them in the same view, with our, shall I say, almost total neglect, of the FRESH WATER, or INLAND FISHERY. A Writer, some eighteen years since, whose name I have forgotten, but who cannot probably be said to be forgotten, since he was never for a moment, noticed by a *Public*, pretending yet to be greatly in want of additional supplies, seemed to *prove* that, immense resources were lodged in our numerous *Lakes and Rivers*, in the shape of *fresh water Fish*, which awaited only due cultivation, the necessary arrangements for transfer to Market, and a disposition in the People, to receive and encourage such a supply. About the same period, I had an application from a Gentleman in *Scotland*, who desired I would make enquiry in *London*, and in several great Towns which he pointed out, whether it would be possible, to make any profit from the immense loads of *Eels*, with which the Waters in his Estates abounded. The only idea in my power to suggest was, whether, if they were pickled like Salmon, any sale of them could be made. The truth is, fresh Water Fish, even as a luxury, are

comparatively of very limited use in this Country; as an article of general subsistence, of scarcely any at all. Such being the case, it need excite no surprise that, in this view, our Rivers are neglected, and that many Persons in the Country, in possession of fine pieces of Water or Ponds, never think it worth their while, from Father to Son, to stock them, or pay them the least attention. What success might attend a national encouragement of the Fresh water Fishery, it is impossible to foresee, since remarks of a similar nature and tendency to these, have been perpetually made with respect to the SEA FISHERY, and immense benefits have been warranted by Speculators, from its almost boundless extension; of the probability of which, unless with a view to the export Trade chiefly, I cannot help entertaining the strongest doubt. The Public has heard of the patriotic *Lord Somerville's* attempt, at such a heavy expence, to facilitate the transfer of Fish, from the Western Coast to the inland Markets, and of its total failure. The Fishermen who supply the *Metropolis*, have ever experienced, in an extraordinary quantity at Market, such a declension of price, as could not possibly be borne, were a repetition of such abundant supply to take place. Fresh Fish, to be sure, are a perishable commodity, but the result would be similar, in all probability, from any considerable addition to the stock of salted Fish. The same reasoning holds good in relation to *Fruit*, which we at present import; was a general attempt made to raise a national supply, it is to be suspected from former ex-

perience that, Fruit in a very short time, would not pay its expences to Market. Thirty years ago, I was amused by reading a number of ingenious and splendid calculations on the profit of keeping BEES; in the mean time, a fruitful Season occurring, I was offered *Honey* in great plenty, at two pence per pound, nobody seeming to be in want of Honey. The reason does not lie in my immediate grasp, but this Country cannot *bear* a permanent abundance of certain articles of subsistence, like other countries. We are not great Fish eaters. *Salmon* nevertheless, seems to form an exception, and all the People, to the very lowest, would consume vast quantities of *pickled* Salmon, were it sufficiently plentiful and cheap, to come within their ability to purchase.

FISHING then, in our *Inland Waters*, is to be viewed generally in the light of a *Sport*, rather than as a source of profit, and there is a concomitant of this Sport, which has always stricken my faculties very forcibly. I allude to the sanctified and pious pretensions of old *Isaac Walton*, and others of our piscatory Writers, and to their thorough conviction of the innocuous, mild and laudable nature of their occupation, which at the same time, they carry on, at the expence of the tortured feelings of Animals, impaled alive upon their hooks! but our admiration of even this, must give place to that of the convenient hypocrisy of some of them, who have, out of the abundance and profundity of their knowledge as Naturalists, de-

cided that, fish and frogs and animals of those Classes, have been denied by Nature, the sense of feeling, as well as a voice to express it. Hear old Gervase Markham on the innocence and beauty of Angling—"what worke unto men can be more thankfull, than the Discourse of that pleasure which is most comely, most honest, and giving the most liberty to Divine Meditation? and that without all question is the Art of Angling, which having ever bin most hurtlessly necessary, hath been the Sport or Recreation of God's Saints, of most holy Fathers, and many worthy and Reverend Divines, both dead and at this time breathing." He however, in the next sentence, speaks of Angling, "in its own true and unabused nature"—and could those terms be justly and properly applied, I should be far better satisfied; but I cannot conceal that, *my* 'divine meditations,' who am a Saint only in *substance*, would be most cruelly suspended and interrupted by a conviction of the tortures, which a poor frog, in the mean while, was suffering, impaled on my hook. This is most humbly dedicated to all Fishers, among the rest, to the '*Fishers of Men.*'

The well known Methods of catching FISH, consist of *netting*, *snaring*, *bobbing*, and *angling* with Rod, Hook, and Line, and Variety of *Baits*, living, artificial, or dead. The chief division of the objects of pursuit is, into *River* and *Pond* Fishes. Of the former, those which claim most attention are, the SALMON—TROUT—PIKE—

GRAYLING—PERCH—ROACH—DACE—CHUB—BARBEL—POPE or RUFF—SMELT—GUDGEON—EEL. The chief of our *Pond Fishes* are CARP, TENCH, and EELS, although many, or most of the River Fishes, will thrive in large Ponds, and more especially, in extensive pieces of Water. Some of the *Lakes* abound in a variety of both River and Pond Fishes of the largest size, exclusive of others peculiar to extensive Waters.

ANGLING is a Diversion, not only of great antiquity in this Country, but the science was in a state of maturity, and the practice highly diversified, so early as two Centuries and a half ago. Our modern principles and practice are entirely grounded on those of an early period. The vulgar Compiler, *Markham*, preceded the ingenious *Walton*, and we find in the former, the grounds of *Walton's* practice. Nothing can be more amusing, than the high notion *Markham* had conceived of the Angler's Character, which, it seems, must combine most of the superior qualities, natural and acquired, of the human body and mind !—yet I believe, if catching quantities of Fish with the hook and line, be the true test, I could successfully match a *Miller's Boy* of my former acquaintance, against the very *Sir Charles Grandison* of Anglers. As has been already said of *Field Sports*, eminent dexterity with the hook and line, seems to be a gift of Nature, and Fly-fishing particularly, depends on a slight of hand and happy management, the acquisition of which, at any rate, must be the work of long and

patient practice. *Patience* indeed is the Angler's chief virtue. The *Apparel* of the Angler was held a matter of prime consequence, and *Markham* directs that, it be, by no means—'garish, light coloured or shining,' the eyes of Fish being remarkably quick and easily alarmed. The colours he recommends are *dark*, *russet*, or *tawney*, and made to sit close to the body—'without any new fashioned slashes, or hanging sleeves waving loose, like sailes about you.' Well lined and warm also, the head and feet being kept dry—'for from the offence of them, springeth Agues and many infirmities.' *Sat verbum.*

FISHING TACKLE being made in *London*, to great perfection, it is the interest of the Angler to purchase in the first instance, whatever his future intentions may be, as to manufacturing for himself. For the ROD, ground-*Hazel*, the Cob-nut in preference, and ground-*Ash*, have been generally chosen; cut at the end of Autumn, and kept until properly seasoned, under the pressure of weight which may preserve them straight and unwarped. The BAG ROD has succeeded the long and awkward implement of former days, whether for *float* or *fly-fishing*. This most convenient article placed in a bag, may be concealed in a side pocket made for the purpose. *Hiccary* and the tough woods, with *bamboo* shaved, are used in making this Rod, the joints of which ought to fit to the utmost nicety. The *Salmon Rod*, excepting the whale bone top, is generally made of *Ash*.

Lines are made of *Horse-hair* or *Silk*; when of the former, the hair should be evenly sorted, that the strength may be in proportion, and that they may not break singly. The colour *grey* or *white*, as the nearest to a pale or transparent water colour. But reddish brown, or chesnut coloured hairs, are best adapted to muddy waters and ground Angling. Floats are made of the hardest and best *Quills*. Their load should be so nearly adjusted that, the top appearing above the surface of the water, may be moved and drawn by the slightest nibble of a Fish. For fishing with a heavy bait, a *Cork* float is necessary, resembling in shape a Child's spinning Top. The cork must be sound and free from flaws, and may be bored with a small red hot iron, lengthwise, through the centre; then cut across the grain, about two-thirds of its length, and the remaining third, or summit of the float, should be rounded with it, and smoothly finished with pumice stone. In *float fishing*, the line should be about a foot shorter than the rod, for the convenience of disengaging the fish taken; the *length* of the rod, from fourteen to fifteen feet; light, stiff and elastic, so as to strike at the extremity of the whale bone. Hooks are in great variety, as necessarily adapted to the different kind of Fishes. The iron of which they are made, must be so well tempered that, they are neither brittle, nor to be bent. Their quality and form may be generally depended on, from Makers of reputation. The small whetstone is used to sharpen them.

For fishing below the surface, or at BOTTOM, the following is a list of A GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF TACKLE—*Different kinds of lines neatly coiled up; strong single hairs; hooks untied, of various sorts, as well as hooks tied to bottom links of coarse and fine gimp, of twisted and single silk worm gut, of hog's bristles, and of white and sorrel (reddish) hair; cork and quill floats, and spare caps; shot split, and small pistol bullets, to poise the floats; shoemakers' wax for the purpose of arming the hooks; silk of various sizes and colours; as hooks for worm fishing and red paste are usually tied on with scarlet; those for gentles, with yellow paste, and for grubs, with straw-coloured silk: a plummet, to ascertain the depth of the water; a clearing ring, to disentangle the hook, which is used by running it along, and over the top of the rod, and gradually down the line, to the fastening of the hook, if at a stump or other immoveable substance; but if it be hung to weeds, let the ring get below the hook, then pull the twine, and the ring will break the weeds, and thus save both line and hook; but if it do not release the hook, the line will be broken near to it, and will not be strained in any other part. Sharp penknife, pair of scissars, small whetstone, landing net, disgorger, light fishing basket, or creel.*

GREEN seems to be the modern Angler's favourite colour. *Spring, Summer*, and the early part of *Autumn*, are the *fishing Seasons*; from *Lady-Day* to *October*. In *Winter* Angling, which may be convenient for a Country Family, where fish

are in good plenty, mild and calm weather must be chosen. Deep waters are to preferred, not only as less agitated, but as the haunts of the largest fish. As to the hours of the Day, the old Writers recommend *four* in the Morning, until *nine*, and *three* in the Afternoon until twilight; but to speak for myself, who am too thoroughly modernized to be an early riser, I have seldom found lack of Sport, in either River or Pond fishing, where fish were to be had, at any hour of the day, the weather being favourable, and either calm, or the waters gently agitated by light and rustling winds. However deep, or even discoloured the water, let the Angler place himself in concealment, if possible, and so that his shadow may fall *from* the water. It is doubtless pleasant to angle in transparent water, where the prey may be seen contending for the bait, and where the Angler has a double advantage; but the best chance will often lie in deep holes, clogged with weeds, and under the roots of aged Trees, in which situation, much risk is incurred of entangling the hook, and much caution required in striking at a bite, as too hasty and violent a jerk will, at once, break the best tackle. The largest *Roach* and *Dace* which I have seen, were taken from a whirlpool, in a mill Dam, where the Angler's float was of no use, but the bites were so heavy, as not to be mistaken. In Summer heats, choose the coolest time of the day. Generally, whenever Fish play, they will bite; when the *Trout* leaps above water, and the *Pike* shoots in

the pursuit of his prey, Angling is good. Great heats, high and cold Winds, especially from the *North-East*, heavy rains and hail, deep snow, land floods—are inimical to Angling. Washing Sheep, it is said, drives fish from the spot, which are supposed to be annoyed by the scent of wool, as also by a great quantity of the leaves of Trees, shed into the Water. The annexed *Plate* exhibits the figures of the chief Implements used in *Angling* and *Trolling*; with fly baits, the necessity of an Assortment of all which has already been stated.

The TACKLE-BOOK, fig. 1 in the Table, is by curious Anglers, substituted for the common *bag*, in which the mixing and waste of light materials, is unavoidable. Its full description would be too long here, and probably of little use, as a proper and convenient Book is easiest and best obtained of the Tackle Maker. It contains pockets and partitions for wool, fur and hairs of the finest sorts; large and small feathers of the different kinds in use.

BAITS, living, are—*common small red worms*, of any description—*Marsh* worms—*Cadis* worms, found under loose stones in *Brooks*—*Bob* or *Clap*—bait found in *Cow Dung*—*Wasps*, *Grubs*, or *Maggots*—*yellow Worms* from the roots of *Flags*—*Gentles* or *Maggots*—*Rock Worms* or *early Bob*, found in ploughed Grounds—the large *Garden lob* or *Dew Worms*, are fit only to bob for Eels—*Snails* slit—*Shrimps*—*Beetles*—*Grasshoppers*—small *fish*, *Minnow*, *&c.*—*Roach*—*Dace*—*Smelts*—*yellow* and

IMPLEMENTS FOR FISHING.

Published March 1,1818, by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Paternoster Row.

Engraved by H. Mutlow.

green Frogs. FLIES.—*Stone Fly*, found under Stones by the sides of Rivers—green *Drakes*, same places—*May Fly*, same places—the *Oak Fly*—*Ant Hill Fly*—*Black* or *Hawthorn Fly*—the *Palmer*, or Caterpillar Fly or Worm. To preserve Flies alive, they must be kept as nearly as possible, in their natural state, whether as to earth or water. *Gentles* are put into Bran or Moss, several days before used.

DEAD BAITS for *Fish*, not, or very little, carnivorous, are—various *Pastes*, in which perhaps, some improvement is required, the addition of some glutinous or adhesive material, as they are liable to be very soon washed off the hook. Some pastes are tinged with vermilion, to nearly the hue of Salmon roe.; others are mixed with honey, brandy, tincture of *Benzoin*, oil of *Aspray*, *Coculus Indicus*, *Assafœtida*, oil of *Polypody*, or other supposed enticement, which, either the experience or the fancy of Anglers, have introduced. I have tried various additions of this kind, to the paste, but never with any perceptible difference in their favour. It is to be considered that, if the bait be not noticed by the fish very soon, the water must necessarily deprive it of its perfume. I have *imagined* that *benzoin* and *brandy* had the greatest attraction for Fish. Blood of Sheep's hearts, worked up with honey and flour, is a good bait. Strong scented old Cheese also, worked up with rank butter, of rusty bacon fat melted, is attractive, and particularly useful, in Winter Angling: some suppose

this composition is improved, by being coloured with *saffron*. ARTIFICIAL FLIES, as has been said, may be purchased more usefully, if good directions be given; or home made by Persons, who have leisure, and can be amused by such employment. *Worms* also, are to be purchased, ready sorted and fit for immediate use. The EYES of fishes are good bait for all.

Sheep's blood—the kidney tallow of a sheep, and ripe Cherries pounded in a mortar, with paste or wheat flour, have been formerly in use. The scent of *Camphor* also, is said to be agreeable to all fishes, which are perhaps affected, and rendered curious, by any extraordinary scent.

With respect to COLOURING of *lines*, and of materials for *artificial flies*, the old Anglers recommend for a *water green*—a pottle of *Alum* water, or solution, with a large handful of *Marygolds;* these having been boiled, infuse one pound of green *Copperas* in fine powder, with the hairs, to be boiled again during half an hour. To be then cooled half a day, and the hairs withdrawn, which will have imbibed the desired colour. For a *yellow* colour, instead of *Copperas*, boil in the *Alum* water, Marygolds as before, with the addition of a handful of *Turmeric*, or green *Walnut* shells, steeping your Articles, at least, twenty-four hours. The Angler had better, however, have recourse to 'Packer's Dyer's Guide,' for information on the subject of colours.

I should feel the painful regret of a neglected

duty, were I to omit a few additional reflections on LIVING BAITS, and to ask the question—where would be the impracticability or disadvantage, of dispensing with them altogether, as well as the *sport* of BAITING Animals? In my boyish days, although excessively attached to Angling, I never could get beyond the use of a Worm; and one of the greatest horrors I then witnessed was, the act of *impaling* frogs and fishes of considerable size, upon the hook; a melancholy impression, which length of time has not erased from my mind. So great effect had this on my youthful feelings, whilst at School, that before I was ten years of age, I had taken up and destroyed scores of *Jack* or Pike line, vindictively cutting them to pieces, and delivering the wretched victims of slow torture, to their *Paradise*, instant death.

Markham, and even late Writers, direct you, with the utmost coolness, 'to cut off the legs of living *Frogs*, by the knees,' previously to running the hook and wire through their bodies; and the great object is to preserve them *living*, and feeling, as long as possible in such state!—at such expence, to enhance the prospect and feeling of profit, in the Angler. *Isaac Walton*, a man of genius, of some pretensions to erudition, and of a most gentle nature, with equal *non chalance*, gives directions how to impale alive *fishes and frogs*, and bind them to the torture; with the following curious final hint—" in so doing, harm him as little as you may possibly, *that he may live the longer.*" Walton

even boasts of the *sport* of 'tying *live* baits about the body or wings of a goose or duck, and she chased over a pond.'—Sport! No doubt, his friend, *holy Mr. Herbert*, who had a *primitive* spirit, and loved Angling, and spent a life without offence to God or Man, would also without scruple, and in all probability also, without being sensible of committing impropriety, far less crime, inflict, for his own gratification and the glory of the Lord, these lengthened torments on captive Animals: a fatal and invariable consequence this, of the human mind being absorbed by fanatical reveries and observances, to the exclusion of essential and universal principles, which we find neglected and unthought of, whether with respect to man or beast, in times of the highest fanatical pretensions. Hypocrisy and great crimes, to the exclusion perhaps, of the smaller fry, are too often found to increase, in proportion to the prevalence of superstition; and such must be the fate of Mankind, until they become wise enough to discern its utter *inutility*, except for the most degrading purposes; and that one solid and practical *truth*, in a moral view, is of more real use than a thousand holy conundrums.

Walton, however, and all Writers agree that, the carnivorous fishes will bite at the baits *dead*, provided they be *fresh and clean*, and be moved about by the Angler, to resemble the living prey. In fact, I have no need of recourse to *them* for such proof, since my own frequent experience in fishing for Pike, has been fully sufficient. Is it not pos-

Engraved by J. Scott, from a Painting by J. Barrenger.

Published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones Paternoster Row, Oct. 1. 1817.

FLY FISHING.

sible to put an end to all vital sensibility in the bait, fish or Frog, by pricking them in the spinal marrow, or brain, previously to fixing them on the hook ? I should hope so ; and if so, it would form a small part indeed, of the often troublesome process of *empalement*. Pike, I well know, and I suppose any other voracious fish, will bite eagerly at certain dead baits, for example, a piece of Sheep's or Calf's heart, or some kind of entrails. In fine, there are plenty of attractive baits, were there but plenty of Fish. Never having been a *pious* Angler, I have always regretted the infliction upon the poor captive fish, occasioned by the necessity of *tearing* the hook from his stomach, or mouth ; but, going to the utmost verge of feeling, permitted in our imperfect state, I lay the remaining blame on dame Nature, a wicked old beldame, whose back had need be broad indeed.

On TOP or *Surface-fishing*, with the *fly*, a few general rules must suffice : Let the Angler keep out of sight, by distance from the water side, as much as possible, and fish down the stream, with the Sun in his face. The line generally, to be twice as long as the rod, unless the water be full of obstructions. This is to aim at *fine* fishing. A small fly with clear wings, is best adapted to clear Waters, but larger may be substituted in muddy places. The colour of the fly to suit that of the water and the air, and store being in reserve of *orange*, *red-brown*, *black*, and *light coloured* flies. The fly must be thrown upon

the water without the line touching it. In slow and still waters, cast the fly across, and letting it sink a few inches, draw it leisurely back, when it will describe a circle. Strike instantly on a bite, or the fish may have time to clear the hook. The Fly Fisher may thus take his walks down the Stream, gleaning as he goes, unless in a strong wind, when he may more conveniently remain near sheltered and deep places.

TRIMMER ANGLING is used in the still parts of a *River*, or in *Canals* or large *Pieces of Water*. A round cork is used, half a foot in diameter, with a *groove*, on which to wind up the line, allowing enough with the hook, to hang about midwater, and so much of the other end as will reach to the bank, where it is to be made fast. It may be so left, whilst the Angler attends other lines. When the Pike or other fish runs off with the bait, the line veers off the trimmer, without a check, to the end. On taking up the line, the usual jirk is necessary to secure the fish.

TROLLING is in use for *Pike*, *Salmon* and *Eels*. The trolling *Rod* is twelve or fourteen feet long, but it may be made with a common Rod, having fitted to it, a strong top, with a ring at the end, for the line to run through, and with one ring upon each joint to conduct the line, set on straight, that the line may run *freely*, and that no sudden check may prevent the fish from gorging the bait. The line should be of silk, with a swivel at end, to receive the armed wire or gimp, and full thirty yards

long, wound upon a reel, fenced at the but end of the rod. Trolling *hooks* are sometimes too large, the points standing too high. It is best to cut off the *wire* about an inch from the lead, and to fasten securely about a foot of strong *gimp* to the wire, a noose being left at the other end of the gimp, large enough to admit the bait to pass through, in order to hang it on the line. The hook being baited and fastened to the line, may be gently put into the water, wherever it is judged Pike resort. The bait is to be kept in constant motion; sometimes suffered to sink near to the bottom, and alternately raised up towards the surface. A few trials in a *deep*, or other places, are sufficient, as, Pike being there, and in the *humour*, will generally bite at first. The bite of a Pike cannot well be mistaken, supposing the water deep or not transparent; he is to be indulged with all the line he will draw, until he reach his haunt; when he may be allowed *five* or *ten* minutes, but no more, to pouch his bait: the line must then be wound up gently, until the fish be seen, which he will often suffer pretty quietly, although he shall not have gorged. Should the bait be still in, or across his mouth, more time must be given him. Should he be sensible of the hook, be strugling to clear his mouth of it, the Angler must endeavour to make it more secure by a jerk, and do his best, by playing with and tiring out his fish; but should it have swallowed the bait, it remains, by veering out plenty of line, to manœuvre and keep the fish clear of roots of trees and other

obstructions, until he can be landed with the net. A Pike of any weight, must not be lifted out of the water with the rod and line, for the instant the fish is suspended, it is probable his weight alone will draw him off the hook, and he will fall in the water and be lost. In trolling, the bait should never be thrown too far into the water, which alarms the fish. Pike are attracted by a large bait, from which however, they oftener escape, than from a small one, which they sooner pouch. No weeds should hang upon the hook or bait. A rough wind, when not a cold one, and clear water, are preferred for trolling, nor is there generally any success in fishing for pike in troubled Waters.

The PIKE is the fresh water *Shark*, but far better food. The age he has been known to attain, is said to be from one, to nearly *three hundred* years. His weight in *Ireland*, has been nearly *seventy* pounds, in *Scotland fifty*, and in *England* upwards of *forty*. He is taken in various modes—by the *ledger* baits, or lines left by night; and by *snaring* with a noose of wire, fixed to a strong pole. The Snarer attends those deeps or holes, in which Pike may be seen reposing in the hottest part of the Summer's day, and gently slipping the wire over the head and *gill-fins* of the Pike, with a jerk, he then hoists it to land. When we were boys at School together, I once saw the late *Francis Pemberton, Esq.* who died in India, some years since, snare a score or upwards of young Pike successively, from one hole in the River, in less than two

hours. They were of tolerable size, and the Boys were accustomed to have them baked in long rowls. To bring up a large Pike snared, requires considerable exertion. SHOOTING them is sometimes, but seldom, used; it would be excellent sport, but I believe, nobody gets more than one shot. The Marksman must aim directly under the fish, on account of the resistance of the water. In landing a Pike, it is always prudent to be aware of his *teeth*. Pike frequent still, shady, deep, and undisturbed waters, having a solid, not muddy bottom, and in such, and in proportion to the prey they can find, are of the largest size. Through the Summer Season, they are found among *flags*, *bulrushes*, and *waterdocks*, and under the *ranunculus aquaticus*, when in flower and floating, on the surface; also in the deeps which terminate sharp currents. In Winter they retire to the deepest water, under shelter of banks, roots of trees, or bushes, into Mill-Dams, and under Bridges. They spawn in *March* and *April*, and are in season from *May* to *February*, the female fish and the young not above eight or ten pounds weight, being the best for the table. The best Months for trolling are *February* and *October*; the latter is the highest Season for Pike, as they are in the finest condition from their Summer feed. SNAP-ANGLING for Pike, needs little description. The snap has two large hooks placed back to back, with a small one in the centre on which to place the bait. The float swims down the Current, and on perceiving a bite, the

Angler gives a sudden *snap* or jerk, keeps his line tight, and without giving the Fish any play, draws him towards the shore and nets him for landing. It is obvious a very large Pike is not easily taken by the snap.

The SALMON at the largest, approaches the weight of *forty* pounds. They divide their time, unless obstructed by *weirs*, rather equally, between the *Rivers* and the *Sea*, entering the fresh Rivers in *February* or *March*, where they remain until Autumn, and having cast their *spawn*, return to the Sea. It is said the salt water promotes their *growth* and the fresh makes them fat; and also that such as cannot visit the Sea, are inferior and insipid in flavour, and even perish if they miss during two seasons, their annual sea visit. *Scotland* and *Ireland* abound with Salmon, and the chief *English* and *Welsh* Rivers in which they are found—are *Severn*, *Trent*, *Dee*, *Ex*, *Usk*, *Wye*, *Lon*, *Tyne*, *Werkington*, *Weaver*, *Medway*, *Thames*, and others. In Lancashire heretofore, they have been so plentiful, and the River Lone so overstocked with them, that the Servants were accustomed to stipulate for the condition of not feeding upon Salmon more than twice a week; a similar custom also existed in Scotland. How to be lamented that, a more ample supply cannot be derived from such superabundant sources, to other parts of the Country where no Salmon are produced, and where that fish, as has been observed, is in such high estimation among all ranks of the People. How to be regret-

ted again, if such be really the fact, that our Country cannot *bear* abundance. Salmon, it is averred, always delight to visit the Rivers in which they were bred, on their annual return from their Country Houses at Sea. Would it be a feasible or useful project to *stock* the *Thames* and *Medway* with Salmon, where they are certainly not superabundant? It would be certainly more easy than to set those Rivers on fire.

The Salmon is a sportive and restless fish, extremely enticing to the Angler. He swims towards the Spring-head, in the midst of the deep and broad parts of the Water, or near the ground; and bites best, in the Afternoon from May to August, in clear water fanned by brisk and pleasant *Zephyrs*; or when the wind and stream setting in opposite directions, cause a rippling upon the Water. He is equally fickle with respect to Baits, as he is restless in moving from place to place, exercising the patience of the Angler, and giving him plenty of work. The best SALMON BAITS are—large, gaudy *Artificial Flies*—*lobworms* well scoured—*live Fish Baits*—*Raw Cockle* or *Muscle* from the Shell, or *Prawns*. The hook must be strong and large, and well armed with gimp, or *Westphalian* bristles. A ledger bait must be left about the middle of deep water, and *bottom* fishing for Salmon is usually more successful than fly fishing. Salmon are also sometimes shot with Fire Arms.

The TROUT.—The *Varieties* of this Fish are—

the *Scurf, Bull-Trout, Salmon Trout* or *Salmon Peale.* These are all found in the *West* and *North* of *England*, are in Season during the *Summer*, and caught as other Trout. It is a popular error, to suppose the *Salmon Trout* to be a young *Salmon*; it is a Variety of the *Trout* resembling the *Salmon.* They have *Pond Trouts* in France, a Country abounding with *Fresh Water Fish*, which grow to the vast weight of *thirty* Pounds; and in the Lakes of *Geneva*, some of the same species, which reach *fifty* Pounds. The *Samlet, Brandlin*, or *Fingerin*, are found in some parts of this Country, of small size, and seeming to partake of the nature of the *Trout* or the *Salmon.*

The *Trout* is perhaps our most favourite fish for Sport, and one of superior excellence for the table. Like the Salmon, it grows to the largest size in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, but is sufficiently large in some of our great Rivers, having reached the weight of thirty-six pounds; but in our small streams, is more usually found of much less than a quarter of that weight. *Herts, Surrey, Sussex* and *Berks*, breed good Trout; and in all probability, the so much coveted CHAR, both red and white, of the *Meers* and *Lakes*, is of the *Trout* species; the flesh of some of the *Northern* Trouts, being red, and flavoured like *Char*. Trout will feed and thrive to vast size, in *Ponds* and *Stews*. Trout delight in the smaller and cooler Rivers and Streams, and can bear a greater degree of cold than any other Fishes. They are observed to swim striving against the Stream,

even the most rapid. The most valuable Trout are the *red* and *yellow*, and the female is preferred, being known by the smaller size of the head and greater depth of body. They *spawn* in *November* and *December*, but unlike other fish, are not in high season when full of spawn, being fattest and finest flavoured in the height of Summer. Their flesh is somewhat drier, and not so tender as that of the Salmon, yet it is esteemed equal, or superior to any fish which never quits fresh water. The famous *Forditch* Trout, perhaps a Salmon Variety, and nearly of that size, the flesh of which cuts white, lives nine months of the year in the Sea, and is seldom caught by the Angler. The *Trout Season* begins in *March*, and continues to *Michaelmas*; throughout the Winter, this fish is lean, ill flavoured, and unwholesome.

Trout Baits. Worms—*branling*, *lobworm*, *earthworm*, *dungworm*, and *gentle* or *maggot*: the usual *live baits*, this being a voracious fish. *Natural* or *artificial* flies. The Trout is a quick and sharp biter, and not very difficult as to the kind of fly, rising as well to an artificial, as a natural one; but perhaps *lobworm* is his most killing bait for bottom fishing. He will take a fly from the surface, yet the best chance is from sinking it half a foot below. The fly Angler should place himself with the wind at his back, blowing down the Stream. Trouts generally shelter themselves, and lurk under banks or large stones, and among weeds, watching their prey, their heads only visible; in

this case, a stratagem of the Angler, is to go silently and softly up the stream, and stir up the water from the bottom, immediately throwing the bait into the place troubled. The trout will sometimes make to such a troubled spot, and take the bait. The oldest and largest fish are caught in the night, when Trout, if in tolerable plenty, bite ravenously, lying on the top of the water, ready for any prey. At this time no lead is used, but the bait thrown gently across the surface, and drawn back towards the Angler. Some curious Fishers use by night, a small silver *bell* fixed on the top of the rod, to give notice of a bite; but I should apprehend, the noise of the bell would alarm and drive away the fish. Trout are sometimes *dibbed* for, as *Chub*, with a strong rod and short line; and, according to the *Philosophical Transactions* of a former period, both this fish and *Carp*, are *tickled* for. An *adept* gropes for them in their haunts, and having found, delights them to captivity, by *gently tickling their sides*, till at length reaching their gills, he secures them. This practice may probably have gone out of fashion, with that other, of catching *Sparrows* by *laying salt* on their tails. Nor have the learned body aforesaid, informed us, whether Trout and Carp possess any of the *animal risibile*, or whether they laughed when they were tickled.

Angling for the common *River and Pond Fish*, is not only a well worn subject, but the practice is sufficiently familiar to most of the Inhabitants, or

A Fish-house at E. L. Lovedens Esq.r

Fig. 1

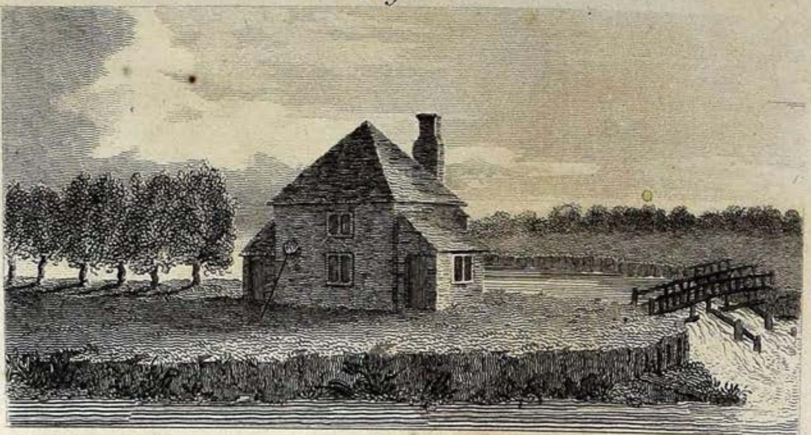


Fig. 2

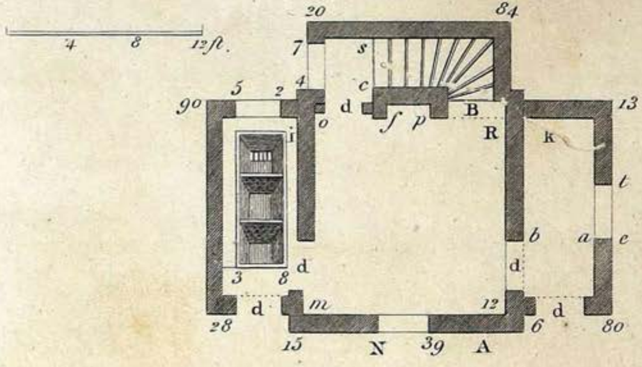
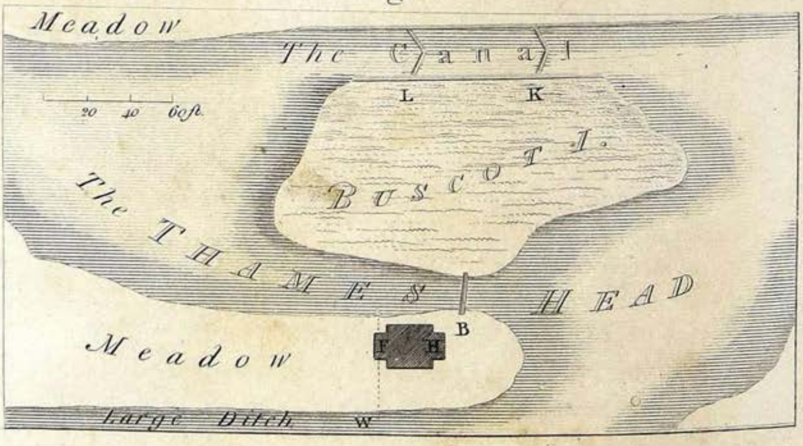


Fig. 3



Pub.d by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, Feb. 1 1818.

casual Visitants of the Country; and the subjoined *Table*, may prove, not only a sufficient substitute, but even a relief from the trouble of more lengthened instructions. This *synoptical* Table, originally constructed many years since, has been, I believe, somewhat enlarged by the industry of the *Rev. Mr. Daniel*, who usually improves whatever comes under his hands. So far as I have discovered, it appears now sufficiently extensive and correct, for its intended Purposes. In the construction and management of *Fish Ponds*, '*A Discourse of Fish and Fish Ponds*, by the *Hon. Roger North*,' generally esteemed a good authority; 'or the '*Modern Land Steward*,' may be consulted. Swans will clear the largest Pieces of Water from Weeds, however thick and extensive; but they will also devour an immense quantity of the young fry and spawn of fish, as will *Herons*, or *Hernshaws*, where they haunt; and these last are very shy, and difficult to be approached within gun-shot. A FISH-HOUSE is a useful appendage for those who cultivate their Waters. The annexed Plate represents the Fish-House, "which cannot be robbed," of *E. L. Loveden, Esq.* at *Buscot Park, Berks*, an eminent and meritorious Agricultural Improver, whose name will survive in the *Annals of Agriculture*. There are at *Buscot*, two fine Pieces of Water, which apparently unite, and cover thirty-three acres of Land, containing a large stock of *Pike, Trout, Carp, Tench, Eel*, and other fish. Pike of twenty pounds have been caught in

these Waters, which are always full. The *Fish-House* is built upon a peculiar plan of *Mr. Loveden.* It stands upon a small *peninsula*, surrounded on three sides by a branch of the *Thames*, having iron Grates to the *East* and *West*, to allow the water a free passage. Within the limits of this *neat Cottage* are three STEWS, about eight feet deep from the ground-floor, and standing, on an average, three in water, which communicates with each other, by holes bored through the wooden partitions. These Stews are covered with trap doors, which, when locked, even the Person who inhabits the Cottage connected with them, could not open and get at the fish, without detection. This is certainly a very convenient plan for a Country Establishment, whether upon the large or inferior scale, and where it is made an object to have a regular supply of Fish, for family use, and for presents: the Cottage and charge afford a good opportunity of providing for a worthy Servant. *Mr. Loveden*, also, ingeniously contrived to make a Spring of pure soft water for all domestic purposes, in the neighbourhood of a Well which he had sunk to a vast depth, but which yielded none but brackish Water. For the particulars of this successful piece of ingenuity, the Reader is referred to Dr. Mavor's Agricultural Survey of Berkshire.

Table for Waters, Angling Seasons, Depths, and Baits.

Names; and where found.	Season.	Time to Angle.	Depth from Ground.	Baits.			
				Worms.	Flies.	Pastes.	Fish, &c.
BREAM. In rivers: in soft streams, in the deepest and broadest parts near weeds, where the bottom is clay or sand. In ponds: in the quietest and deepest parts.	From May til September.	3 in the morning until 8; and from 5 in the afternoon until dark.	Touch the ground	2,5,7. . . .	2. under water.	1,2 . . .	8. in June or July.
CHUB. In angles and deep holes of rivers, where the stream is not quick; under shade of trees, weeds, or hollow banks, in a clayey or sandy bottom.	From Aug. till Mar.; best in winter months	In mild cloudy weather will bite all day; in hot, from sun-rise till 9, and from 3 p. m. till sun-set; in cold, the middle of day.	In fishing with float in warm weather, at mid-water: in cool, lower; & in cold, at the ground.	1,2,4,5,6.	1,2,3,4,5.	1,2 . . .	7,8,9.
BARBEL. Middle of pond, in rivers during summer, the strongest currents, under bridges, near wiers, among piles, hollow places, and under mossy weeds.	From May till August.	From sun-rise till 10 in the morning; and from 4 p. m. till sun-set.	Touch ground	2,7,9. . . .	. . . .	4.	. . . .
SMELT. In docks, and at the stern of ships, in tide rivers.—To fish at sterns, a pater-noster line, with five or six hooks, is to be used.	From April till October.	All the day; best when the tide runs up.	The baits to sink two or three yards.	1,2,6,9 . .	. . . .	. . . . . .	5. cut in pieces 10. small and unboiled.
SALMON. Violent streams and large rivers, whilst at feed; when off their prey, the deep and broad parts, and generally middle of the river, near the ground.	From April till August.	From 6 till 9 in the morning, and from 3 p. m. till sun-set.	Touch ground with lob-worm; smaller worms, bobs, and cad-bait, at top of the water.	7.	Large and the more gaudy the better.	. . . . . .	1.
GRAYLING. Clay bottom, clear water; and swift streams.	All the year; chiefly from Sept. to Jan.	All day in cool cloudy weather.	Cold weather, at bottom; in hot weather, top or mid-water.	1,2,3,4,5, 6,8,9.	1,2,3,4,6, 6,7.	. . . . . .	. . . .
GUDGEON. Gravelly, sandy ground, and gentle streams.	From May till October.	All day	Near, or on the ground . . .	2,9.	. . . .	. . . . . .	. . . .

Table for Waters, Angling Seasons, Depths, and Baits, continued.

Names; and where found.	*Season.*	*Time to Angle.*	*Depth from Ground.*	Baits.			
				Worms.	*Flies.*	*Pastes.*	*Fish, &c.*
BLEAK. Sandy bottom, deep rivers; at the sides and tails of streams, where the water eddies and turns gently back; ships' sterns.	All the year but May, when they are spawning.	All day......	A little deeper than mid-water.	2,6,9....	1,4,7 ...	1......	....
DACE. Sandy bottom, deep rivers; holes well shaded in summer; shallow near fords, under banks, and among weeds.	From April to Feb. best in winter.	All day......	3 inches from bottom, or at top of the water.	1,2,3,6,9.	1,2,3,4,5, 6,7.	5,6 ...	....
ROACH. Deep gentle running waters; holes that are well shaded, having fine gravel or sandy bottom; ships' sterns; bridges.	From July till March; best in February.	In mild cloudy weather, all day; in hot, morn & eve; in cold, the mid. of day.	1 inch from bottom	1,2,3,4,5, 8,9.	1,2,4,5,7. Under water.	1,3,6 ..	8.
PERCH. In rivers; gentle streams, not over deep, where there are weeds, hollow banks, and at gravelly bottoms. In ponds; deep holes, near weeds or stumps of trees.	From April till January.	Sun-rise till 10; from 2 till sun-set: if weather be cloudy, with ruffling south wind, will bite all day.	Mid-water, or 6 inches from bottom.	1,2,6,8,9.	....	....	1,6.
POPE. Deep still water	May to Oct.	All day......	6 inches from bottom.....	2,9	....	....	....
CARP. Still deep muddy bottom, pond or river.	Mar. to Aug.	Early and late as possible.	3 inch from bottom; mid-water in hot weather.	1,2,3,4,8.	....	3,5,6.	....
TENCH. River or pond, among weeds, muddy bottom.	From Sept. till June.	Early and late as possible.	6 inches from bottom; among weeds, 2 ft. deep; mid-wat. in hot weather.	1,2,4,9..	....	2,5 ...	....
TROUT. Swift clean rivers, over pebbles, stony bottoms.	March to Michaelmas.	All day......	Cold weather, 6 inch. to 9 from bottom; in hot, top to mid-water.	1,3,5,6,7, 8,9.	1,2,3,4,5, 6,7.	....	1,2,9.
PIKE. Sandy or clay bottoms, under bull-rushes, weeds, water-docks, or bushes.	From May till February.	With a gentle gale, all day.	Mid-water, if with a float, and single snap-hook.	....	....	....	1,2,3,4,6.
EEL. Among weeds, under roots and holes in banks and stones at bottom; about bridges, weirs, and mills.	From May till September.	All day, when the water is thick by rains.	On the ground	4,7	....	....	1,2.

Descriptions of Bobs and Worms.

1. *Earth Bob:* found in sandy or light ground after the plough; the rooks will direct where this grub is to be met with by their close attendance on the plough; is white, bigger than a gentle, with a red head. Another is found in heathy ground, with a black or blue head. Either of these are to be got by digging one spit deep in the above-mentioned soils, where they have long remained unploughed. Keep them in an earthen vessel well covered, with a sufficient quantity of the mould they harbour in, with dryish moss at top, and let them be in a warm place; are excellent from the beginning of November to the middle of April.

2. *Gentles;* to be had from putrid flesh; let them be put into wheat bran two or three days before used.

3. *Flag Worms:* found amongst roots of flags, is a pale yellow, longer and thinner than a gentle; must be kept like the cad-bait.

4. *Wasp Grubs or Wasp Maggots:* found in the cakes or cells as taken in the nest; before using, put them into an oven after the bread is drawn, or dry them on a tile before the fire, just to harden and make them tough.

5. *Cow-dung Bob, or Clap-bait:* found under a cow-drop from May to Michaelmas, is larger but like a gentle; to be preserved in its native earth, as number 1.

6. *Cadis Worm, or Cad-bait:* found under loose stones in shallow rivers or brooks, are covered with husks of sticks, straw, rushes, and stones; they are yellow, bigger than a gentle, with a black or blue head. Keep them in flannel or linen bags, and dip them, bag and all, into water once a day for five or six days, they will then become tough and fitter for angling than when first taken from the water.

7. *Lob, or Dew Worm:* found in gardens, is very large, having a red head, a streak down the back, and a broad flat tail; those with a knot are fit only for eels.

8. *Marsh Worm:* found in marshy ground, are of a blueish colour, and requires more scouring in moss than most other worms; are a good bait from March to Michaelmas.

9. *Brandling, Red, or Blood Worm:* found in rotten dunghills and tanner's bark that has been used. The red worm found at the root of a great dock, and which lies wrapt up in a round clue, is a particular bait for *bream.* The common red worm is very good for all small fish.

Flies: where found.

1. *Stone Fly:* under hollow stones at the sides of rivers, is of a brown colour, with yellow streaks on the back and belly, has large wings. In season from April to July.

2. *Green Drake:* among stones by rivers' sides, has a yellow body ribbed with green, is long and slender, his wings like a butterfly's, his tail turns [illegible]. Very good from May to Midsummer.

3. *Oak Fly:* upon the body of an old oak or ash tree, with its head downwards, is of a brown colour. From May to September. Excellent for *trout* in clear water, putting a cad-bait on the point of the hook, and letting it sink a few inches and gradually raising it.

4. *Palmer Fly, or Worm:* upon the leaves of plants, is commonly called a caterpillar; when it turns to a fly, very good for *trout.*

5. *Ant Fly:* in ant-hills. From June to September. A handful of the earth, with as much of the grass that grows on their hillocks, put into a glass bottle with the ant-flies, will keep them alive.

6. *May Fly:* playing at the river side, especially before rain.

7. *Black Fly:* upon every hawthorn bush after the buds appear.

Mem. Artificial Flies may be procured at the shops where fishing tackle is sold. Worms of various sorts, and other baits, are also generally kept in the season ready prepared for use.

Pastes: how to be made.

1. *Red Paste:* the crumb of fine new white bread (without being made wet) worked up in the hand, and coloured with vermillion as near as possible to that of the salmon's roe.

2. *Brown Paste:* the crumb of brown bread, mixed with honey, worked up in the same manner.

3. Blood of a sheep's heart mixed with honey and flour, and worked to a proper consistency.

4. Old cheese grated, butter sufficient to work it, and coloured with saffron; if in winter, use the fat of racy bacon instead of butter.

5. Crumbs of bread worked with honey or sugar, and moistened with gum-ivy water.

6. Bread chewed, and worked in the hand until stiff.

Fish and Insects.

1. Minnow.	6. Yellow Frog.
2. Gudgeon.	7. Snail-slit.
3. Roach.	8. Grasshopper.
4. Dace.	9. Beetle.
5. Smelt.	10. Shrimp.

REFERENCES TO THE TABLE OF IMPLEMENTS.

Fig. 1.... Tackle Book.
2.... Winch.
3.... Tackle Case.
4.... Basket.
5.... Landing Hook.
6.... Spear Trolling Hook.
7.... Swivel.
8.... Minnow baited.
9.... Dead snap Trolling Hook.
10.... Dead Gorge Hook.
11.... Minnow Tackle.
12.... Live-spring Snap Hook.
13.... Minnow Gorge Hook.
14.... Drop lead Trolling Hook.
15.... Clearing Ring.
16.... Plummet.
Fig. 17.... Twisting Engine.
18.... Landing Net.
19.... Plummet.
20.... Gentle Box.
21.... Dead Trolling Hook.
22.... Jack Lead.
23.... Minnow Kettle.
24.... Cork Float.
25.... Palmer Fly.
26.... Ditto.
27.... Hawthorn Fly.
28.... Duncot Fly.
29.... May Fly.
30.... Aunt Fly.
31.... Palmer Fly.

THE FISHING LAWS.

Stat. 5 Eliz. Chap. 21.—To Fish in any Fish Pond or Stew, with intent to take or destroy Fish, against the will of the Owner, subjects to Imprisonment for three months, payment of Treble Damages, and the finding of Sureties for good behaviour during Seven Years after the commission of the Offence. And in the construction of this Statute, it has been held, that the Offence is within the meaning of the Act, though no Fish has been actually taken. See Coke's Institutes, vol. ii. p. 200.

And by Chas. II. Stat. 22 and 23, Chap. 25, to cast any kind of Net, Noose, Angle, Hair, Troll, or Spear; or to lay any Wear, Fish-hook, or other engine; or to take any Fish by any means whatever, in any River, Stew, Pond, Moat, or other water; or to be aiding thereto without the Owner's

consent, subjects to a Forfeiture of Treble Damages to the Party injured, and of Ten Shillings to the Poor; or in Default of Payment, to Imprisonment for a Term not exceeding one month, unless he enters into a Bond with Surety, in a sum not exceeding Ten Pounds, never to offend in like manner.

By the Stat. 4 and 5 William III. Chap. 23, none but the Owners and Occupiers of Fisheries, the Makers and Sellers of Nets, authorised Fishermen and their Apprentices, are to keep Nets or other engines for taking of Fish, on pain of Seizure.

By the Stat. 9 Geo. III. Chap. 22, to enter any Park or Paddock, armed and disguised, and to Steal or take away any Fish out of any River or Pond; or whether armed and disguised or not, and unlawfully and maliciously to break down the head or mound of any Fish-pond, wherein the Fish shall be lost or destroyed, is Felony without benefit of Clergy.

And by the Stat. 5 Geo. III. Chap. 14, to enter, without the consent of the Owner, any Park or Paddock inclosed, or into any Garden, Orchard, or Yard, belonging to or adjoining any Dwelling-house, and to kill or destroy any Fish bred or preserved in any River, Pond, or Stew therein; or to aid therein, or receive or bring any such Fish, subjects to Transportation for Seven Years. And by the Third Section of the same Act, to take or destroy, or attempt to take or destroy any Fish in any River, &c. in any inclosed Private Ground, not being a Park, &c. belonging or adjoining to a Dwelling-house, incurs a Penalty of Five Pounds.

By the Stat. 1 Geo. I. Chap. 18, no Salmon, Salmon-peal, or Salmon-kind, is to be taken by Net, Angle, or other device, or offered for Sale between the 1st day of August until the 12th day of November, of any Year, on pain of forfeiting Five Pounds for every Offence, besides the Fish so taken, and the Nets, Engines, and Devices used in doing or committing the same. Nor is the Spawn, or small fry of Salmon, or any Kipper or Shedder Salmon, or any Salmon not being in length Eighteen Inches, or more, from the eye

to the extent of the middle of the tail, is to be taken or destroyed; or any Net or other Engine be set or erected across any River for taking the same, on a like Penalty.

But the respective Owners and Proprietors of the Fisheries and Fishings in the River Ribble, and every other Person entitled to Fish therein, may, between January the 1st and September the 15th, in any Year, take, or kill, and sell, any Salmon, Salmon-peal, or Salmon-kind, in the several Fisheries within the said River. Stat. 23 Geo. III. Chap. 26.

By the Statutes 13 Richard II. Chap. 19, and 1 Elizabeth, Chap. 21, to take or destroy the Spawn, Fry, or Young Breed, of any kind of Fish, incurs, for the First Offence, the destruction of the Nets and Engines; for the Second, Imprisonment for a Quarter of a Year; and for the Third, Imprisonment for a whole Year; and as the Trespass is repeated, so is the Punishment to be.

By the Stat. 1 Eliz. Chap. 21, no Pike or Pikerel but of Ten Inches, or more, in length; nor any Trout but of Eight Inches, or more, in length; nor any Barbel but of Twelve Inches, or more, in length; is to be taken within River, Stream, Wear, or Floodgate, within England, Wales, or Berwick, or the Marshes thereof, on forfeiture of Twenty Shillings for every Offence, together with the Fish so taken, and the Nets, &c.

By the same Statute, Fish are to be taken only with Nets, or Tramels, whereof every Mesh is Two Inches and a Half broad, except in such places where a contrary usage has subsisted. This Statute does not restrain the practice of Angling.

THE

SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR,

AND

MONTHLY REMEMBRANCER.

SEPTEMBER.—SHOOTING, *Heath and Moor Game, Partridge, Hare, Flappers, Landrail, Fen or Aquatic Birds.*—HUNTING, COURSING.—FISHING, *for Pike, Trout, Salmon, Perch, Roach, Dace, Chubb, Barbel, Bream, Eels, Grayling, Carp and Tench.*—RACING, *at Warwick, Morpeth, Bedford, Ayr, Burderop, Enfield, Cricklade, Pontefract, Litchfield, Northampton, Basingstoke, Burton-upon-Trent, Kingscote, Shrewsbury, Leicester, Dumfries, Lincoln, Beccles, Doncaster, Chippenham, Oswestry, Walsall.*

OCTOBER.—SHOOTING, *as last Month, Cock and Snipe.*—HUNTING, COURSING.—FISHING, *as last Month,* see Table, page 597, 598.—RACING, *at* NEWMARKET *First Meeting, Wrexham, Carlisle, Edinburgh and Caledonian Hunt, Monmouth, Holywell Hunt, Richmond, Aberdeen, Forfar, Kincardine and Banff,* NEWMARKET *Second Meeting, Northallerton, Cupar (Fife), Kelso, Penrith,* NEW-

MARKET *Third or Houghton Meeting, Stafford, Tarporley Hunt.*

NOVEMBER.—SHOOTING, *as last Month, Wild Fowl, Rabbit.*—HUNTING, COURSING.—FISHING, see Table, page 597, 598.—*Coursing Meetings.*

DECEMBER.—SHOOTING, *as last Month, Field-face, Redwing.*—HUNTING, COURSING.—*Coursing Meetings.*—FISHING, see Table.

JANUARY.—*Same as last Month.*

FEBRUARY.—First Day, Partridge and Pheasant SHOOTING *end.*—Other Shooting as in the previous Months.—HUNTING, *Fox and Hare, and* COURSING, end with this Month.—FISHING, *for Trout, Pike, Perch, &c.*

MARCH.—SHOOTING, *Woodcocks, Snipes, Wild Fowl, &c.*—HUNTING, *the Deer.*—FISHING, *as last Month.*

APRIL.—HUNTING, *the Stag and Buck.*—FISHING, see the Table.—RACING, *at Malton,* NEWMARKET *Craven Meeting, Catterick Bridge, Middleham,* NEWMARKET *First Spring Meeting, Durham.*

MAY.—FISHING, see Table as above.—HUNTING.—RACING, *at Michel Grove, Sussex, Chester,* NEWMARKET *Second Spring Meeeting, York Spring Meeting, Epsom Spring Meeting, Beverley.*

JUNE.—SUMMER HUNTING, *the Stag and Roebuck.*—*Vermin* Hunting, *Badger, Marten Cat, Otter.*—FISHING.—RACING, *at South Shields, Guildford, Manchester, Maddington, Grimsby, Ascot Heath, Newton, Tenbury, Newcastle-upon-*

Tyne, Bibury, Stamford, Nantwich, Hampton, Middlesex.

JULY.—FISHING.—HUNTING.—RACING, *at Ipswich, Lancaster, Ludlow, Bath,* NEWMARKET *July Meeting, Preston, Irvine, Bridgnorth, Stockbridge, Chelmsford, Nottingham, Glamorgan, Swaffham, Goodwood, Derby, Yarmouth, Bridgwater, Oxford, Winchester, Knutsford.*

AUGUST.—SHOOTING, *Grouse.*—HUNTING.—FISHING.—RACING, *at Abingdon, Huntingdon, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Broxash Downs, near Bromyard, Salisbury, Lewes, Worcester, Canterbury, Brighton, Blandford, York, Hereford, Exeter, Egham, Chesterfield.*

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W. Wilson, Printer, 4, Greville-Street, Hatton-Garden, London.

Published by Sherwood, Neely, and Jones, London.

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The plan of this Work has received particular approbation, from each County being divide into *Easy Journies*, by which means, persons, either riding, or on foot, have the opportunit of viewing many Beauties, which might not otherwise be noticed.

N. B. It may be had also *bound* in any manner agreeable to the purchaser.